

Submitter: Melissa Fisher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB134

While my father with dementia has since passed, I will never forget the 18 months that my family lost during the pandemic, being kept away from him in the skilled nursing facility we placed him in. He required a higher level of care, but we always maintained that our inclusion in that care would be essential.

He was over medicated because no one could be with him to assure his medication was the appropriate dosage and I couldn't see the impacts of that. He stopped talking, rapidly declined and became wheelchair bound. I'm heartbroken but committed to making sure that this never happens again to any other family. When we were finally allowed back in, we were able to restore very little, but we know that what comfort and support we could provide, mattered.

I lived far away from my dad during this time and not having the ability to see him was detrimental to his care. It kept me from being active in his care and he suffered as a result.

Please don't let distance harm the people we love and care deeply about. I ask you to please support electronic monitoring device in the resident's room or private living unit.

Thank you.