

Submitter: Rebecca Bryant
On Behalf Of: SB134
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB134

As both registered nurse and daughter providing care to my disabled father, I write in support of SB134, which establishes the right of a resident of a long term care facility, residential care facility or adult foster home to use an electronic monitoring device in the resident's room or private living unit.

Good morning chair and committee members -

I have been caring for my father, in a separate living space on my property, for 5 years. He has Parkinson's Disease with dementia that is progressing rapidly. I have been living with the increasing stress of his care and safety as his health declines. Recently, I installed 2 cameras in his living space. This addition of being able to monitor him remotely has been beneficial to both he and I. No longer do I have to pop in unexpectedly to check on him. I can look at the camera and determine if he is awake and it is a convenient time for him. In addition, after having several falls, I can look and see if he is safe and unhurt and if he needs assistance I can respond immediately. I can also ensure that the people I have assisting him are, in fact, doing their jobs. This technology has also allowed me to continue to work as I can monitor him while I am away from home. He and I both feel reassured by this as he has stated to me he, "likes knowing that I am keeping an eye on him." He is unable to use a telephone or call device for assistance. The camera allows for me to hear his communications and respond directly. When I have to be out of town, I can continue to be involved in his care and he feels safe and secure. These cameras are not a substitute for care but a positive addition to it.

As a registered nurse, in Oregon, for the past 30 years I embrace this technology. Properly placed cameras are not a HIPAA violation. Every study supports that family involvement increases quality of life for residents of facilities. And for some, remote interactions are all they can have as they may live far away, or have to be at work, or even during visiting restrictions required for the recent covid-19 pandemic. When families are involved with their loved ones care, it is beneficial for facilities and strengthens the resident's plan of care as they may have insights that staff could never have. Senior citizens in the United States are very isolated and, in some cases, neglected. The cameras ensure care is being delivered and protects residents against neglect and, too frequently documented, abuses. In addition, these devices also protect staff from errant accusations and are proof of excellent care. Many states already have legislation supporting their use and this is a great opportunity for Oregon to join in delivering the health care our elderly deserve.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony in support of SB134.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Rebecca Bryant, RN