

Submitter: Jewel Nelson
On Behalf Of: Tammy Brown
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB228

ATTN: Senator Sarah Gelser-Blouin: Ref # SB 134 & SB 128

My name is Tammy Brown, I was a member of The Rawlin Family Council and my father was a resident at The Rawlin.

Senate bill #134: Fortunately, the Rawlin allowed me to have a camera in my father's room, this allowed me to watch over as I work and when I was unable to be with him. The camera brought peace of mind and allowed me the experience of some beautiful moments between staff and my father. It also allowed me to watch over him when he was being difficult with staff so I could intervene. Without the camera I would not have had the ability or peace of mind to be a part of my dad's care even while away.

The camera also brought to light some training issues that had better trained staff, my father may not have experienced as much pain. My dad fell at around 4 am, he had attempted to get to his door to ask for some help, he was experiencing some pain. While he neared the door he fell against the door, hit his head and hip, which resulted in a fracture and eventually his death. The camera allowed me to see the error in his care. The staff picked my father up and placed him in a chair. His hip was broken, which we found out later in the emergency room. He should not have been picked up. Imagine the pain he experienced as they took him from the floor with a broken hip and sat him up in a chair. He was yelling in excruciating pain. This video is painful to watch, but without it I wouldn't have known what happened nor the information to help others. He should have been left on the floor and an ambulance should have been called. He endured additional unnecessary pain due to a lack of training. Had I not had the cameras, this would not have been an opportunity to educate, and request additional training for such falls, so others do not have to have the same experience.

Currently my son's grandmother is in a rehabilitation facility, he placed a camera in the room and were able to see that she was in a lot of pain. The family came to the facility to request she receive her late pain meds. Without this camera she would have endured even more pain.

Sadly, these facilities are understaffed and underpaid. It is impossible for them to be everywhere they need to be at all times. Being an advocate for our families is the only way we can make this system work and these cameras allow us to be a part of the team. I would not place my family member in a facility without one.

Senate bill #228: The Rawlin Family Council was a life saver! This team of family members are here to help, we work together to help the facility and our loved ones.

When the decision is made to place our loved one in a facility, memory, nursing home or rehabilitation. It is a gut-wrenching decision. Without the council I would feel lost, knowing that we have a team of family members working together, another set of eyes when we can't be there brought a lot of peace. The council provides the support we need, education, extra eyes, a friend, someone who understands what we are all experiencing. I have learned so much from this team and feel grateful for the friends and family that helped me through a very difficult time. I hope to see this in every facility.

Sincerely,

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