

To the attention of:
Senator Sara Gelser-Blouin and the Senate Human Services Committee
Regarding: Support of Camera Bill SB #134

Benefits of Having Cameras in Memory Care and other Residential Care Facilities in Oregon.
January 22, 2025

Good morning, Jewel and Judith,

Thank you both for your foresights and your devoted efforts to bring about positive changes which can impact the level of quality of care for many residents in memory care facilities, and a peace of mind for their families. Those who may often be concerned with not having access to their loved ones, due to Covid, distance, or simply unaware of viable options available to them, besides calling.

My sister, Leyna, who has been residing in Rawlin Memory Care for the past four years, has been declining in health and mobility, to the extent that she needs two people to transfer her from her wheel chair to and from bed. Having been a dancer, a gymnast, with amazing agility only a few years ago, now, even with her advanced dementia and other serious health conditions, it is still hard for her to accept, or to remember that she can no longer walk as before.

After much reluctance, and because of her frequent falls and endless trips to ER, or unable to see her due to lockdowns during any contagious illness and Covid breakouts, I finally gave in and put in a camera in her room. Making sure it would only point towards her bed, and not impose on privacy of her roommate's side.

I'm beyond grateful for the numerous benefits evident from having a camera in her room and my peace of mind, being able to see her awaken in the mornings, and as she is being prepared for bed, nightly.

Cannot tell you how often some early morning falls from her bed have been prevented by my phone calls to Rawlin, asking a MedTech, or a care partner for immediate help for my sister before she had both legs out of her bed, assuming falsely that she could walk to the bathroom by herself.

Often, incidents with morning or evening rituals, when there is a new care partner in the room, unfamiliar with my sister, can be helped by gentle reminders — calling in, and saying '*please make sure Leyna has her denture in before having breakfast*', or reminding the care partner that the *mat under her bed (for safety measures) was not pulled out*, or please make sure she has *warm clothing on* in cold winter days, etc.

My frequent communication with the staff or the management, due to what I was able to observe on the camera, or at times, questioning the ability of a newly hired person (still in training) during Covid & lockdowns, and sharing other concerns with the management — those all seemed very helpful, constructive, and even welcomed by the staff and the management on several occasions.

Having a camera in the room helps with maintaining the proper care and making sure the agreements made in quarterly care plans are being honored. A more collaborative effort with the care partners, the MedTech's, and the management — can be beneficial when all are involved in the process of learning, and working together for the good of all the residents, not only my sister.

In short, much improvements in the quality of care depends on having a camera in the room, and being able to *observe and share experiences with Rawlin*, even those times when things are not working properly and more consultation maybe necessary — an evolving process — in this worthy and important phase of the life of many residents. Naturally, with the obvious and unavoidable challenges and struggles which all memory care facilities face, from time to time!

The fact that there is a bill already in motion, and those honorable representatives of people will be working on those bills, shows the level of their integrity, justice and compassion, advocating and maintaining the rights and dignity of those unable to speak for themselves.

My sincere best wishes for a an equitable and just outcome, as a result of making available the option of having a camera in the room of the residents (if that is the wish of the family) in the spirit of collaboration and reciprocity with the management, providing greater peace of mind for the family, and enhancing the quality of life of the loved ones who will be the ultimate recipients.

With deep appreciation,

Vida Ellins

Email: vidaunity9@comcast.net