

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB134

I am an attorney representing families whose loved ones have been injured by neglect and abuse in long term care facilities. Isolation is one of the biggest risks of injury and psychological harm for individuals in care facilities. Over the years I have seen families who have had cameras in their loved one's room be able to relax and feel more confident that they can protect and watch out for their loved ones. We all know that care facilities are chronically and consistently understaffed which puts resident wellbeing and safety at risk. Care facilities are not required to monitor a resident 24 hours a day (with rare exceptions). With cameras, families can choose to do so. With more eyes to see potential problems, and connect the vulnerable person with the outside world, the risk of harm goes down. And the opportunity for accountability goes up. From the thousands of clients I have represented, I have seen that Oregon has a problem with its DHS Licensing department not addressing complaints of potential abuse and neglect in a timely or thorough manner. Allowing residents to have cameras would increase the State's ability to meet its oversight obligation for the growing number of residents in long term care. Cameras would also have the added benefit of increasing the likelihood of regulatory and standard-of-care compliance by management and staff in care facilities. Cameras only increase Oregonian's ability to be more safe and secure. There is simply no good reason to prohibit cameras in resident rooms. Please support the right of residents in long term care to use an electronic monitoring device in private living units.