

Good morning Honorable Chair Gossage and Committee Members,

I and others in my precinct urge you to oppose SB2264! This bill is supposed to be the "No Patient Left Alone Act" and pretends to protect patient visitation rights, but will really serve the conveniences of healthcare providers and provide no real protections after all!

I worked in a Continuing Care Community that included residents in independent living, assistant living, nursing home and memory care during COVID-19. Many residents shared their stories of the horrors and anguish they experienced when they were denied visitation rights with their loved ones.

In 2021, my mother had a severe stroke and was unable to speak, or walk. During COVID there were many times she tested positive for COVID simply because her roommate or a staff member had COVID even though my mother had no symptoms. She was kept in isolation so many times because of this. She became depressed, her condition deteriorated and she passed away. The fact that she was unable to have her loved ones there with her when she needed them the most is absolutely inhumane and horrific. This bill is cruel to the patient and their loved ones. It is something you will never forget. I can't imagine how anyone who loves their family feels this bill is worthy of passing.

Therefore, I urge you to have compassion and not pass this bill!

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

Carol Daunis
Precinct Committee Woman