

Dear Chairwoman Beverly Gossage and Public Health & Welfare Committee Members,

I'm asking you to oppose House Bill 2264

"AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; enacting the no patient left alone act; relating to hospitals, adult care homes and hospice facilities; requiring such facilities to allow in-person visitation in certain circumstances; requiring authorizing such facilities to adopt visitation policies and procedures."

in the Public Health and Welfare committee.

HB 2264 looks good on the surface, but there are major flaws which must be amended before it moves to the Senate floor for a vote.

For example,

- Visitors are only allowed under "certain circumstances"
- Care facilities may establish visitation policies that designate when and how long a visitor can stay, based on if they feel the patient need rest or their determination of condition.
- The facility can revoke or suspend access at any time.

While conceding that there are a few difficult visitors, this happened much too often during the recent Covid lockdown, when many public health and hospital administrative personnel were only too eager to overreach their authority. As a result, I know by personal example of loved ones who were denied admission to visit the patient and discuss important questions about treatments with patient and medical staff and follow up on the patient's progress during treatment. This was cruel and unusual punishment, especially for the elderly parent.

Only the patient or power of attorney should make the call on who can visit them and when.

Yours sincerely,
Mei Upsdell
Senate District #10