

CBA LPRC POSITION REQUEST FORM

The CBA Elder Law **position request** is as follows:

- 1) Proposed legislative or regulatory concept:
Technology/Camera Bill concept, which would allow the use of technology by residents in their rooms at skilling nursing facilities and assisted living facilities including, but not limited to cameras and other electronic devices.

- 2) A plain language explanation and rationale for advancing this position:
The Connecticut Bar Association, Elder Law Section supports legislation that permits nursing facility or assisted living facility residents to use any audio, video, or voice activated technology, that would otherwise be available to them in the community. In addition, the Section, advocates that any such proposed bill include provisions to ensure that the rights of other residents are respected and to ensure that the other residents' privacy is protected.

With the permission of those residents sharing their room, any nursing home resident should be afforded the ability to access and use any technology that would be available to them in the community. The nursing facility is their home. Use and access to such technology is of paramount importance given the devastating effects of social isolation, the oversight once provided by family and friends, and the potential for neglect and abuse to go unrecognized. Use of technology to connect with family, friends, and as a source of connection with the outside world should not be denied on the basis that nursing facilities or employees do not feel comfortable with potentially being seen or heard. The need for residents to avoid social isolation and the health consequences associated with social isolation far outweigh the interests of the facilities that are paid to care for them in what has become their home.

- 3) Is draft regulation, legislation or proposed bill included?
The following bills, which are conceptual only at this time, have been proposed:
 - **HB 5087 (An Act Establishing a Working Group to Study the Feasibility of Allowing Video Cameras in the Rooms Of Nursing Home Residents); and**
 - **HB 5206 (An Act Permitting the Use of Video Monitoring Devices at Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities).**

- 4) What is the date of any legislative hearing, if known?
N/A.

- 5) Was this position previously approved by the CBA? If so, when does/did it expire?
Yes. The position expires at the end of the 2021 Legislative session.
- 6) Is the CBA section or committee seeking to join a previously approved CBA section or committee position?
No.
- 7) Potential or actual CBA opposition from another CBA section or committee?
No.
- 8) Strength of section position (including process and results of section vote taken on issue):
- 9) **The Legislative Committee circulated a survey to the Executive Committee inquiring whether they want the Section to renew its position on this issue. Out of 22 members that participated in the survey, 18 members voted to renew the Section's position regarding Technology in Nursing Facilities.**
- 10) Fiscal impact (on the state):
None.