

Madam Chair and Committee:

I'm Seth Miller.

Thank you for your service.

Senator Salling thank you for introducing this bill at my request.

I was a patient at Potomac Valley Nursing and Wellness. The name changed. It was a dump. They renovated. My experiences are not unique my ability as a younger patient to testify is. My first night, I was in a room with three other men. One got up and battered a paraplegic. Without full use of three of my limbs, I could not help. It could've been me. The two were separated. The nurse on duty would not call the police. I told her she would call the police or I would call the state. Police report attached. The next night my roommate was slapped by a staff member. I called the police with my iPhone.

Increased patient phone access will be an incentive for staff and patients alike to behave. Phone access will be a strong deterrent. I am no expert in combatives, but I think in a space that small with response times what they are a victim using the phone during an actual attack is unlikely. A land would be tougher to neutralize than a mobile phone.

Patients would be able to communicate with outside doctors as well as family. I can only imagine how isolated patients must have become during Covid.