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Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB828 - Health Care Facilities - Rights of Comprehensive and Extended Care Facility  
Residents - Hospice Comfort Care**

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am Delegate Kipke's Legislative Aide and Constituent. I brought this issue to his attention, and he introduced HB828 with the intention of helping hospice patients.

My dad passed away on January 3, 2025, after a brief stay in an assisted living facility while under the care of Hospice. During his stay, I requested items like bed rails, a bed alarm, sleep aids, and a Geri chair. I was advised that even though my dad suffered dozens of falls in his final months, that those requested items were considered restraints and could not be used at the assisted living facility under the current law. I argued that he was not a regular resident at the facility, and he was under the supervision of hospice. My dad was ultimately denied comfort and safety care.

Please consider this carve-out for the instance of hospice care at assisted living facilities as a tool for comfort and safety care. I ask for your favorable consideration of HB828.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Gilleland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" being more prominent than the last name "Gilleland".

Emily Gilleland