



Cosponsor the *Randy Susen Nursing Home Visitation Rights Act*

Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing homes across the country implemented strict visitation bans in the name of infection control. While intended to protect residents, these measures had devastating consequences: countless seniors spent months cut off from family, with many dying alone without the comfort of loved ones. The isolation led to sharp declines in mental, emotional, and physical health for thousands of nursing home residents.

The *Randy Susen Nursing Home Visitation Rights Act* is named in honor of Randy Susen, a resident of Wisconsin's Sixth District. Randy's health deteriorated when his nursing home denied him the chance to see his loved ones during the pandemic, and he tragically passed away without the family connection he needed most. His story underscores the urgent need to safeguard visitation rights, even during public health emergencies.

This bill ensures that nursing home residents cannot be denied visits from their loved ones in times of crisis. Family presence is not optional, it is essential. Loved ones provide comfort, advocacy, and oversight that no staff member can replace. By ensuring that residents always have the right to designate one essential visitor, this legislation will prevent future tragedies like those seen during COVID-19.

The Bill

The *Randy Susen Nursing Home Visitation Rights Act* would:

- Amend the Medicare and Medicaid provisions of the Social Security Act to require that every nursing home resident be allowed to designate no fewer than one "essential visitor."
- Guarantee that this essential visitor cannot be denied access to the resident except by the resident themselves.
- Protect dignity, health, and accountability by ensuring that residents always have access to at least one trusted loved one, regardless of circumstances.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor, please reach out to Andrew.Bambrick@mail.house.gov in Rep. Grothman's Office.