

My name is Jodi Collins and I am the mother of André Collins. Andre is 29 years old, profoundly deaf, has cerebral palsy, and uses an electric wheelchair.

André moved into his own apartment last year with the assistance of Medicaid Waivers through Desert Regional Center. DRC told us that cameras were not allowed because it would be a rights restriction for André. When André told them that he wanted the cameras, DRC then said it was a privacy issue due to having 24-hour caregivers.

When André still lived at home, a caregiver fell asleep for two hours. My son was tapping the caregiver on the leg for several minutes and the caregiver never woke up. The care company requested I view the footage from the cameras we had installed at our home, so they knew how long the caregiver was asleep.

The 1999 landmark Supreme Court case of Olmstead v. L.C. established that the least restrictive community integrated setting for those with disabilities is a right. We knew that it was important to allow André his independence and he was very adamant that he wanted to live alone, but vulnerable populations, such as my son, are often unable to clearly communicate. Without cameras, neglect and abuse can occur without accountability. Cameras can also serve as an “insurance policy” for staff if an accusation is made.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will **support AB 368** to include cameras for all vulnerable individuals who may not be able to speak out.

Jodi Collins

Parent/Guardian of André Collins

[REDACTED]

Las Vegas, NV 89183

joboboflv@cox.net

[REDACTED]