

Dear friends and neighbors,

Isolation of vulnerable adults is a growing problem. I heard many heartbreaking stories from seniors and their families, and knew we needed to address it. That's why I worked with a broad group of stakeholders to arrive at a solution for these vulnerable adults and my bill, HB 1402, was the result. It passed in the 2017 legislative session and accomplishes five important goals:

1. Recognizes a vulnerable adult's right to associate with persons of their choosing, whether through visits or other means of communication.
2. Defines "Isolation" as any act that restricts that right.
3. Requires a guardian to obtain either a court order or a Vulnerable Adult Protection Order (VAPO) in order to restrict the right to associate.
4. Requires guardians to notify family members of noteworthy events, including hospital observations and admissions, or when a vulnerable adult is moved, or dies.
5. Provides training for long-term care facilities by the Office of the State Long-Term Ombuds, and for the legal community by the Office of Public Guardianship, about the rights and obligations associated with guardianship.

We still have work to do to ensure vulnerable adults are adequately protected within our guardianship system, but this bill has been a critical step forward. I am so proud of this accomplishment, and thankful for the ongoing work to educate providers and guardians about isolation and the legal options available to protect seniors from abuse, without unnecessary isolation from their families, friends and communities.

Thank you for dedicating your time and energy and to participating in this important training.
Sincerely,



Rep. Laurie Jinkins
27th Legislative District

[https://mediaplayer.invintusmedia.com?
clientID=9375922947&eventID=2017011282&startStreamAt=2458&stopStreamAt=4792&autoStartStream
=true](https://mediaplayer.invintusmedia.com?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2017011282&startStreamAt=2458&stopStreamAt=4792&autoStartStream=true)

[https://mediaplayer.invintusmedia.com?
clientID=9375922947&eventID=2017021418&startStreamAt=1257&stopStreamAt=1819&autoStartStream
=true](https://mediaplayer.invintusmedia.com?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2017021418&startStreamAt=1257&stopStreamAt=1819&autoStartStream=true)