

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Jenny Golden, the daughter of Mary Conroy, who died on September 12, 2021, after being admitted to the hospital with COVID-19. I submit this statement to describe what I personally witnessed during my mother's hospitalization and death.

My mother became ill and experienced difficulty breathing on September 11, 2021. We called 911 and she was transported to the hospital. On September 12, I was able to see her. She was on a BiPAP machine. Her lips were bleeding and severely chapped, and I was told she could not have water. Hospital staff repeatedly asked me to consent to ventilation, but my mother repeatedly refused.

The dr informed me that my mother was receiving Remdesivir. I later learned she had also been given morphine, fentanyl, and other medications. I was not informed about other medications, possible side effects, or any informed consent documentation. She was also designated as DNR, which my mother had not requested. My mother told me she had been dropped on the floor while attempting to go to the bathroom. I observed bruising on her arms from repeated needle insertions.

My mother stated that she feared for her life and was signing herself out of the hospital. The dr asked her to remain hospitalized, and discussions between our family and staff continued for several hours. We were told oxygen could not be arranged for transport home because it was a Sunday. A nurse also stated that it would "look so bad for the hospital if my mother died in the parking lot."

As we were leaving, my sister and my two young children were near the hospital exit. A nurse pushing my mother's wheelchair struck the stationary portion of a revolving door. My mother began convulsing and turned gray, right in front of my children. We all started screaming in horror. Hospital staff took her to the ER. Once my mom was coherent again, she refused ventilation, and our family supported her decision.

Staff informed me that palliative care was our only option. Morphine was administered while my husband and I remained with her. During this time, she arched her back with loud groans with the 1st dose and it took a little more than an hour before she died. My husband and I witnessed her last breaths.

Following my mother's death, legal counsel requested that the hospital preserve surveillance footage related to the events at the hospital exit. In 2023, I became the lead plaintiff in ongoing litigation filed against EcoHealth Alliance and Peter Daszak concerning matters related to COVID-19.

I ask the Senate to examine the experiences of patients and families during COVID-19 hospitalization, including informed consent practices, DNR designations, communication

regarding medications and treatment decisions, and the circumstances surrounding patient discharge and end-of-life care.

Thank you,

Jenny Golden