Good day, Chairperson Burzichelli and members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. My name is Cathy Chin and I am testifying on behalf of ABCD. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on A4013 which requires certain group homes to install electronic monitoring devices in communal areas.

I agree with the parents and legislators responsible for crafting this bill, that we need to make our homes abuse proof. What I take issue with is the specific policy.

The current research has found there is no evidence that cameras will reliably protect individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and may make them less safe in their own homes.

- Replacing human staff with technology
- Increasing complacency
- Pushing predators further into darkness from the eyes of dedicated and caring staff.

These findings were actually supported by many family members who during 8 hours of hearings over a 2 day period testified about the abuse of their adult children in facilities which had camera surveillance.

Currently individuals choose from a supply of group homes some of which provide camera surveillance and can change their minds and move, because they control their budget. This bill would impact those who currently live in a residence which does not have camera surveillance.

- There is no requirement that the resident be consulted or given an opportunity to express their opinion to their guardian.
- Since unanimity is required, the bill creates the potential for coercion from housemates, families and providers to accept cameras if the majority requests them.
- Other than moving, there is no process for people to change their minds through a new vote at a later date.

Adopting a policy which may be degrading, compromise choice, is irreversible and according to the current research may make individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities less safe in their own home would be a wasteful allocation of limited resources which should be used on effective policies proven to help to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank you.