



Proponent Testimony for HB 2246 – Creating the right to appeal an involuntary discharge or transfer from an adult residential care facility.

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February 9, 2023

Thank you, Chair Patton and members of the House Judiciary Committee, for affording me the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2246, Creating the right to appeal an involuntary discharge or transfer from an adult residential care facility.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. In Kansas, we have two chapters which together serve all 105 counties.

Involuntary discharges happen in Kansas and all across the country. In fact, eviction complaints are the most common type of grievance received by long-term care ombudsmen across the U.S. for the past several years. Unfortunately, residents and their families can be frightened by the threat of discharge from an assisted living community. Persons with dementia are particularly affected by involuntary discharge because they can sometimes display common dementia behavioral symptoms and because of that be displaced from their home. They are also vulnerable to transfer trauma which can lead to a decline in their physical and emotional well-being that can lead to significant health complications and even premature death. It can also trigger depression, psychological distress, and a withdrawal from social activities.

I ask that you support this bill because it will enhance the quality of care in residential settings and protect persons with dementia. Thank you committee. I will take questions at the appropriate time.

