



1600 W. 15th Ave
Emporia, KS 66801

House Judiciary
Chairman Patton and Committee Members
February 9, 2023

House Bill 2246 – Right to appeal an involuntary discharge of a resident.
Opponent

Good afternoon, Mister Chairman and Committee Members. I am Lori Owen, Compliance Director and LPN for Sunflower Care Homes, LLC. We are a state licensed, not for profit, home plus facility located in Emporia with additional facilities in Baldwin City. We currently care for a maximum of 12 residents in each one of our homes and specialize in memory impairment care. We run on minimal staff to promote a home environment for our residents. I am here today to speak in opposition to the proposed House Bill 2246.

- For our facility, we have 2 staff on duty at all times that are to do medical care, activities of daily living, housekeeping and nutrition. This would mean if someone needed a higher level of care, that staff would be taken from the other residents for potentially an extended period of time creating an unsafe environment.
- We have a nurse on-call 24/7 for the facility, but there is not always a licensed nurse in the facility. This would mean if a resident had a condition needing extensive treatments such as IV antibiotics, injections, tube feedings, etc, we would have to call in additional staff to fill that need.
- We have felt the tension of the staffing crisis that is affecting so many in our industry as well as many others. We are fighting to fill the vacancies to meet the needs of the current residents. If we were forced to care for someone out of our ability due to an appeal, it would potentially be both crippling to our workforce and finances as a facility to accommodate.
- My experiences with involuntary discharge have not been negative at my facility. We make every attempt possible to keep the resident with us for as long as possible. Most, unfortunately, have an event that takes them to the hospital and we are unable to care for them upon discharge so they are not able to return and an alternative placement is found with the assistance of social workers and our facility.

For these reasons and many others, I urge you to not support House Bill 2246. Thank you and I'll stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Lori Owen, LPN, Compliance Director
Sunflower Care Homes, LLC