

**House Health and Human Services Committee**

**Written Testimony in Support of HB 2264**

**Presented by Dr. Kimberly Megow, chief medical officer of HCA Midwest Health, and Dr. Gary Winfield, chief medical officer of HCA Continental Division**

**On behalf of**

**HCA Midwest Health and Wesley Healthcare**

**February 6, 2023**

Chairwoman Landwehr, Members of the Committee:

HCA Healthcare operates several healthcare facilities throughout the state of Kansas, notably HCA Midwest Health in Johnson County and Wesley Healthcare in Sedgwick County.

We are writing this testimony today in support of HB 2264 and its outline of patient visitor parameters in care settings.

As healthcare providers, we know family, friends and clergy are an integral part of the health and well-being of patients. As such, our hospitals encourage the presence and participation of visitors in our patients' care – they are valued partners in our care team.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic was a trying time for both caregivers and patients as we navigated uncharted waters and reacted as quickly as possible to evolving information and research regarding patient and colleague safety. Now, with more than three years of knowledge, sharing of best practice and advances in treatments and vaccines, we are better equipped to care for patients – and their support teams.

Our goal has always been and will always be the safety of our colleagues and patients alike. The parameters outlined in this bill succeed, we believe, in striking a fair balance between protecting the rights of patients and their families while empowering care facilities to use their clinical expertise to make decisions in the safety interests of the staff delivering frontline care.

We support this bill and appreciate this reasonable approach to this issue. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.