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House Health & Human Services
Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members
February 7, 2023

HB 2264 - Neutral

Good Afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee Members. I am Linda MowBray, President/CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade Association representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing home, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health communities across the state. We are the oldest nursing home trade association in Kansas and have over 265 member communities. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day and employ over 20,000 workers.

We appreciate the opportunities to come before you today to present neutral testimony on HB 2264 - AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; enacting the no patient left alone act; relating to hospitals, adult care homes and hospice facilities; requiring such facilities to allow in-person visitation in certain circumstances; requiring such facilities to adopt visitation policies and procedures.

Justification

Lessons were learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shut down of schools, businesses, health care centers and more. Policies, regulations, and orders that were meant to protect us, instead isolated us. Nowhere was this more apparent than adult care homes. People need people. People need human contact with loved ones. But vulnerable, frail people do need protection and providers of their care must follow the mandates made by their regulatory and funding bodies.

We are neutral in our testimony because we do support the inherent right for visitation. We do also need to be cognizant of accountability we are required to provide to our regulatory and funding bodies. This bill requires for our adult care homes to adopt visitation policies and procedures above and beyond those already required. Our inability to fully support this bill lies in the inherent additional burden of additional policies and procedures imposed on our homes. We also must ask that Federal mandates that affect our funding are taken into all due consideration when the next public health emergency arises.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak for HB 2264.

Linda MowBray
President/CEO
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