



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Health and Human Services

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: House Bill 2264

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments regarding House Bill 2264.

Kansas hospitals remain committed to ensuring the safety of all patients, staff, and visitor's entering a hospital facility. Kansas hospitals feel that having family connections for patients, particularly those receiving end of life care, is a very important component of overall patient care.

We appreciate the efforts of the bill sponsor to ensure that patients are receiving whole-person care, including the important component of ensuring patients can visit loved ones during their stay.

We would like the committee to be aware that visitation policies in hospitals are also regulated by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services conditions of participation for infection control. This requires that hospitals "must demonstrate adherence to nationally recognized infection prevention and control guidelines," (CFR 482.42). Those policies can change during infectious disease outbreaks and we request the flexibility to stay within the federal guidelines in the future, adhering to any of the conditions of participation that we are required to follow. Our hospitals are required to meet these conditions of participation, to be able to continue receiving payments from the Medicare program, which make up more than forty percent of the overall payments that Kansas hospitals receive each year.

While a patient's room may be a private area, there are many common areas in hospitals and adult care homes that visitors must pass through to enter a private room.

We would caution the committee that two different standards of care and operations for facilities in Kansas could cause conflicts between varying government oversight entities. We appreciate flexibility in any state statutory change to remain in compliance with federal guidance as well.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.