

No Patient Left Alone : Opposed

Written Testimony : Beth Regehr, Buhler

Thank you for your time and sense of duty in serving Kansans who believe God created us to avoid institutionalized medical facilities by living healthy and holistically.

I've experienced three hospital stays in the past four months. Healthcare workers do not want to comply with the numerous rules and regulations. Nurses want to support healthy emotions, calm fears, and heal the body of their patients. Doctors want to promote homecare and return patients to healthy living. Our local hospital needs to reduce administrators and increase providers of care. Not increase government oversight tied to federal funding. Covid demoralized care of friends who died alone in the hospital full of faceless providers following hastily written protocols from politicians far removed from human care and compassion. Loneliness leads to fear, and recovery needs community. I pray our representatives have learned from the disastrous handling of a viral infection that my 82 year old mother survived with holistic remedies and early treatment; only to be isolated and shunned by her senior living facility after choosing to decline vaccination for a viral infection her immune system fought appropriately.

On a recent Carbon Dioxide visit to the ICU, we didn't arrive until 11:30 pm; which was preceded by EMT/ambulance, an ER visit to the rural hospital, and transfer. The nursing staff would have appreciated my presence until my mother slept comfortably. Instead the administration's policy on visitation required removing my mother's advocate no later than midnight, so her nurse extended apologies and strongly requested that I leave. I left a child-like senior, with declining vision, struggling to understand why her mind was foggy and she couldn't breathe without a ByPap mask. Mom's mind was unable to comprehend why she was being left in the ICU with a strange man. What a stressful situation! I understand not Reopening visitation until 7 am, unfortunately the doctor had done his rounds, it was staff change for nurses, and mom was attempting to eat breakfast without the coaching she needed to discern her tray upon my arrival hours later. Staff reported she was given a sedative to calm her down during the night. I fail to understand how removing her daughter led to justifying drugging an over medicated stroke victim into induced sleep.

I fully understand a facilities need to curtail disruptive visitors, but each patient needs to be treated with dignity and individualism. If no patient is to be left alone, then healthcare facilities need to provide and promote healthy healing which includes emotional, spiritual, and physical health within community. Nursing shortages and patient/staff ratios are creating a poor work environment for caregivers who are trying to meet patients' needs' within an administration's policy of regulation and profit.

Institutionalized healthcare is a broken system, and I understand the desire to provide for patient care. This bill does not seem to help, but instead harms the delicate balance of family, friendship, and community associated with healing.

God created the human body to heal itself given the nutrients and stimulus a body needs to thrive. Limiting emotional and spiritual communication with a patients' support from family denies a person the ethical and moral freedom to recuperate in a healthcare facility. Mom has three children, who should be allowed to sit in the same hospital room, together. Nurse care facilities can demonstrate, with data, how important interaction with community is for their residents, and regulating those visitors seems to me to be more government over-reach much like mandates and shut downs; that have proven to cause a mental health crisis of unimaginable proportions.

I thank you for representing my voice. I oppose HB 2264 and it's reduction of personal freedoms.