

Senate Public Health and Welfare)

HB 2264

Opponent Testimony - Written

3/15/2023

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Senator Gossage and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

I strongly urge your opposition to HB 2264.

I personally experience the tyranny and overreach of nursing homes during 2020. My mother-in-law was living in Brandon Woods, Lawrence, during this time. We were severely restricted from visiting her. For several months starting in March and ending in June, we were not allowed to enter the nursing home we were paying over \$6000 per month to keep her. In June we were allowed to visit her outside for 10 minutes, 10 feet apart, WEARING MASKS! OUTSIDE! You can only imagine the damage to her psyche. She had Alzheimer's. In August we were advised that she had stopped eating and would be best cared for on hospice because she only had days to live. We removed her from the nursing home at that time. Once home, she improved dramatically. She began to eat, and talk again. She lived a further 4 months, dying on Christmas Day surrounded by her family.

No family should ever be restricted from visiting loved ones in care facilities. This bill is not good for Kansas families and I urge you to let it die in committee so no other seniors are forced to die alone- or with a restricted amount of family members (who pass the test) by their side.

I would appreciate your opposition to HB 2264.

Sincerely,

Susan Cary

Senate District 2, Lawrence, KS

Precinct 43 Chairwoman, Douglas County

