



## Testimony in opposition to HB 2359

House Judiciary Committee | February 12, 2025

Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the committee,

I am Jeanne Gawdun, Director of Government Relations with Kansans for Life. Thank you for the opportunity to explain our opposition to HB 2359 in its current form.

While we appreciate the hard work of the Judicial Council's Guardianship Committee to update Kansas guardianship statutes, KFL's opposition to the bill stems from serious concerns we have with the language regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life-saving or life-sustaining medical care, treatment, services or procedures (New Section 78 (c)(4)).

In 2007, KFL supported legislation to correct the Kansas guardianship law by affording due process rights to people with disabilities before medical care, including food and water, may be withheld or withdrawn. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass.

Last year, KFL, the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, the Kansas Catholic Conference, the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Big Ten Coalition, joined together to express our mutual concerns regarding end-of-life issues to the Judicial Council's Guardianship Committee as it worked to update the guardianship statutes, and offer suggestions for correcting the flawed language.

The Judicial Council ultimately **did not** endorse the problematic section of the Guardianship Committee's report dealing with end-of-life decisions, stating instead that it is the proper role of the legislature to decide on these provisions and develop the appropriate language.

KFL encourages the committee to support an amendment to HB 2359 which will correct the life-threatening flaws in the bill's language currently used as the standard regarding the withholding or withdrawal of nutrition and hydration and add the necessary definitions. Until such time as the language of the amendment is added, we must oppose the bill.

Thank you for your consideration and I stand for questions.

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