



## Testimony in Support of HB 2359 with the House Amendment

Senate Judiciary Committee | March 11, 2025

Chairwoman Warren and Members of the committee,

I am Jeanne Gawdun, Director of Government Relations with Kansans for Life. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2359, with the House Amendment.

We appreciate the hard work of the Judicial Council's Guardianship Committee to update Kansas guardianship statutes but had originally been opposed to the bill as introduced, due to the serious concerns we had with the language regarding the withholding or withdrawal of lifesaving or life-sustaining medical care, treatment, services or procedures.

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due process rights to people with disabilities before medical care, including food and water, may be withheld or withdrawn.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 and the aforementioned organizations asked the House Judiciary Committee to add an amendment to HB 2359 correcting the life-threatening flaws in the bill's language currently used as the standard regarding the withholding or withdrawal of nutrition and hydration, along with the necessary definitions. The amendment was adopted in committee and passed the House as amended.

Kansans for Life supports HB 2359 with the House amendment and asks the committee to pass the bill out favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

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