

February 2, 2025

Re: Senate Bill 3

Members of the Kansas Legislature:

I'm a resident of Hutchinson, KS and wish to share with you the reason I support Senate Bill 3. Perhaps sharing the story of my mother will help you to understand the importance of ensuring what happened to her, doesn't happen to someone else's loved one. I was my mother's legal guardian before she passed away.

In 2018, Governor Brownback signed into law the CARE Act. Unfortunately, a violation of the CARE Act was not introduced.

Please review the attached letter written to Hutchinson Regional Medical Center (HRMC) on my mother's behalf after her discharge from their facility. This letter references a significant violation of the CARE Act. I brought this concern to my, then, Representative Jason Probst, for an audit across the state of hospitals to see how frequently violations occur. Unfortunately, as I understand it, the hospitals pushed back based on HIPPA.

It is my hope me and my mother's experience will not go unheard. She deserved the protections of the CARE Act. I, as her legal guardian, deserved the right to advocate on my mother's behalf. I don't need the guardianship to advocate for her; however, she was lucky enough to have a daughter who was aware of the rights that we were to be afforded.

To be clear, this is not just about one patient, one daughter, one family and one hospital. This is about the rights of all patients and caregivers.

I didn't have much time to prepare this testimony or it would speak with more eloquence and legislative language. Please accept this as a conversation starter and refer to the letter written to HRMC regarding RL: 14467 on 8/22/23, shortly after my mother passed. HRMC did not respond to this letter.

Again, if it happened to one patient, one family...how many is it happening to? I would ask that you also consider disciplinary action for hospitals violating the CARE Act and consider the impact on the patient(s) and their caregiver(s). Please pass Senate Bill 3.

I will make myself available for any questions.

Respectfully,

/s/ Jodi A. Fowler, LBSW

