

Honorable Beverly Gossage
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas Capitol, Room 142 South
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Written PROPONENT testimony, SB 352

Dear Chairwoman Gossage and Committee:

My name is William Mize from Overland Park and a member of Kansans for Health Freedom. I am writing to express my support for passage of SB352 but only with amendments.

During Covid, KSHF received numerous calls from Kansans who were denied the opportunity to be with and provide for their loved ones who were confined to health care institutions. These facilities adopted rules that prevented many, like Peggy Stringer, from seeing that their relatives were able to obtain the care they desired. So often, it appeared that the treatment these patients received from the hospitals had little regard for the wishes of those they were hired to serve and more to satisfy the demands of those who required these institutions follow a rigid, no-questions asked course of treatment. Can anyone still defend the policy of the huge payments to reward the hospitals for treatment protocols demanded by government agencies?

SB352 begins to address the concerns of those like Peggy Stringer who were denied the basic right to be with her husband while he fought for his life in a hospital, against a bureaucracy that seemed at odds with providing treatment that was best for her husband. Under subsections (3) of this bill, the same facilities that created the need for this legislation are to be given the right to create policies and procedures that govern their treatment of the families who seek to visit their loved ones in their facilities. Are we expected to trust these facilities to come up with reasonable policies given the policies we saw during Covid? Do we just accept their masking requirements, their retina scans, their limited times of visitation or other requirements they are free to impose without them showing that such procedures are necessary for the patient's care?

I submit that SB352, as it sets forth a patient's bill of rights, should be approved by this Committee. However, if the very facilities that we are seeking to regulate are allowed to make policies that virtually cancel these protections, I fear very little will be accomplished and we will have provided cover for those that mistreated these patients previously. I urge you to pass SB 352 but only with reasonable limitations on the ability of the institutions to negate these rights.

Respectfully,
William D. Mize
Overland Park, Kansas