

March 26, 2021

The isolation that our elderly are facing this past year is CRIMINAL.

It does not make logical sense that the facility workers are able to come and go while still interacting with patients, yet the own family members of patients are allowed no contact with them.

**It is well known that physical human contact is a VITAL NUTRIENT. Free human beings should be able to make their own choices about visitation and calculate their own risk.**

My best friend's mom lived in a Johnson County memory care facility for years with regular, bi-weekly visits from her daughters and family. All of a sudden these vital visits stopped and she did not understand why. She grew very depressed. Without her daughters and family around she LITERALLY lost the will to live and she just recently died. My friend was unable to hug her, hold her hand and provide this vital human connection to her own mother in her final days.

My husband's grandmother also died this year in her long-term care facility with similar circumstances. She was used to regular visits from her many children and grandchildren and then when visits suddenly stopped, she quickly lost her ability to carry on a conversation, she stopped eating and died 3 weeks later.

These stories are happening all over Kansas and EVERYWHERE.

**If workers can enter and leave facilities everyday, people should have the right to choose if they want visitors.**

This bill does not require that all patients have visitors, if people still choose to isolate, they can. Please do not punish the majority of people due to the fear of the few. Logistically, facilities can still isolate people who chose it.

Please, for the love of humanity, support SB 303!

Shawna Childers