

In Support of SB303

3/26/21

Scott City, KS

Senate District #33

Respectfully to Our Kansas Legislators:

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of my parents, who are 90 & 91, in the nursing home in Scott City. I want to preface this testimony with stating that the nursing home they are in has done very well in trying to weigh each and every decision with common sense despite the directives handed down to them from the CDC and CMS.

This has been a very tough year for my folks, as well as for many others! They, thankfully, can still convey their thoughts pretty well, but their moral sense is still very intact!! They have always been very civic minded, and my dad has served in various leadership positions in his lifetime. I've had to answer questions from them that I never dreamed I would have to answer such as the following:

Both have asked, "Did China do this and are they taking over America---not letting us see our family?"

As we are having to visit through a window, my dad asks, "Did we (referring to America) fight in WW1, WW2, and the Korean war to be locked up here and have to talk through a window & you wear a mask so I can't see your face? IS THIS LIBERTY?"

My mother saying, "It just makes me so sad to see my grandchildren and great grandchildren wearing masks! I can't see how their faces have changed! What has happened to our country, that makes them have to wear them at school? And some aren't even getting to go to school! Doesn't our government know how important it is to teach our children so they can have knowledge?"

Both have asked when totally isolated, "Where have you been? I thought you had abandoned us!"

Needless to say, I've seen my dad decline in stature to a mere 124.7#, with increased dementia, and anxiety! Mother is holding on to hope and promise of passing into Jesus' hands soon! Is this how I hoped my parents would live out their last days? No! They are going through the valley of the shadow of death that is man's making! They have experienced so much in their lifetime from poverty, wars, struggling to better themselves, setting money aside so they could be taken care of, to them having everything taken away, and all they have left is family---and then their family being denied the ability to see them!!! If I had known then what I know now, I would have done things differently!

All residents need to be able to see their family! It is their right! Nursing Homes need to be funded to hire a staff member that can oversee the coming and going of family because nursing homes say they aren't staffed to be able to handle visitor screenings, especially on weekends. If staff and agency nurses (who knows where they have been?) are allowed access to our loved ones, then we, as family, should be allowed to visit them in their rooms! So very sad that so many residents passed despite families not being allowed in at times! Hearts were broken!

I thank you for hearing my concerns and plea!

Susan Rose