



COMMERCIAL LAW GROUP, P.A.
FOCUSED IDEAS / STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

Michelle M. Suter

Licensed in Kansas and Missouri

March 28, 2021

Via Email Richard.Hilderbrand@senate.ks.gov
Senator Richard Hilderbrand
State Capitol Building
300 S.W. 10th Street, Room 445-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: *Senate Bill 303*

Dear Senator Hilderbrand:

I am a resident in House District 29, Senate District 8 and submit the following in advance of my live, in person testimony before the Public Health and Welfare Committee meeting to be held Monday, March 29, 2021 at 8:30 am. My family suffered the death of my father which could have been avoided with help like this Bill will provide. We want to highlight how actions that are possibly well-meaning, yet hasty and arbitrary can trample on individual rights and, as in our case, have dire and irreversible consequences.

Informed consent is crucial for proper care and treatment of all people. For those who are most vulnerable; the very young, the very old and the very ill it takes on enhanced importance. We teach people to accompany others when meeting with all professionals. We have powers of attorney and medical directives that the patient and attorney-in-fact are required to work together or one for the other. This requires contact- personal contact for understanding and decision-making. When we check into a 'facility' we do not mean for them to assume total control over our persons- our bodies - our decisions.

My father, locked inside, with a diagnosis based upon a PCR test for 'covid-19', was rendered helpless. He needed our help and we (my mother, and me as power of attorney) were barred from communicating and seeing him until he was at death's door. It was too late for us to save him. He should be at home right now or playing golf - as he did several times before going to the hospital on January 14, 2021.

He went to the hospital not feeling right a day after tripping while getting out of the car - he had a cracked rib and banged his head. He was proclaimed 'positive' for 'Covid' - admitted, family refused admittance, refused contact except by phone- then moved to a care facility (dressed, walking, eating, talking) where the lockdown was even more restrictive. No visits, no phone. Dumped out of the care facility (gowned, incoherent, lost 14 pounds) before even 'serving' his quarantine which was called 'rehab', my father died February 1, 2021 from symptoms we have directly traced to psychiatric drugs given to him

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because, as their records show, he was not 'following directions'. What we have pieced together is my father, with profound hearing loss, could not communicate with the 'care givers'. He was with only one of his hearing aid, batteries dead. Dad's hearing loss was discovered only a few years ago after it was advanced- because he reads lips. You can't read lips when everyone around you is wearing a mask. You can't follow directions or respond when you can't hear.

I met another local man whose mother was in a similar situation- she was saved by her son-in-law who is a pharmacist and was able to create a pack to reverse the effects of drugs also given to her. She is home, still living in her home and just turned 95. Not everyone has a medical person who can gain access when a 'regular' family member is barred due to arbitrary rules.

This Bill will help beyond the 'hug your grandma' situation which I in no way downplay. Familial and social interaction is very important. Health has physical, mental, emotional and spiritual components. My testimony is to highlight the mental and physical components. I hope it is helpful to you and the committee in evaluating Bill 303 and understanding what it could do.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle M. Suter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michelle M. Suter

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