

2/2/24

SB352 John D Springer Patient's Bill of Rights

proponent

written only testimony of Kathy Hisel RN

Members of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare: Beverly Gossage, Renee Erickson, Pat Pettey, Molly Baumgardner, Mike Thompson, Cindy Holscher, Kristen O'Shea, Mark Steffen, Chase Blasi,

Hospitals treat people. People are not just their physical body. When people go to the hospital it is because their needs are beyond what they can take care of on their own. It is absurd and depraved for a hospital to prevent a person in this condition from having an advocate. When people are at their weakest, they need their loved ones to be PRESENT to support, advocate, care and love them.

Sometimes people die in the hospital like my father did. I put him in an ambulance during COVID 19 with an oxygen level of 44%. A few minutes later, after receiving oxygen from the EMT, was the last time I saw my dad awake. He was in the hospital for 2 weeks before he died. We could barely talk to him on the phone. I should have been there with him. He was afraid. They deemed him, in his confusion, capable of making his own medical decisions. If a nurse can gown-up and take care of my dad, I as his daughter and legal power of attorney for healthcare, could have, as well. Not being with my dad while he was conscious before his death haunts me. The hospital lost another patient. I lost my only dad. The hospital should not wield this kind of power over patients.

As a nurse in the hospital, I welcomed families. They often have VALUABLE knowledge of their loved one. They help with communication with their loved one. As we all know, medical mistakes happen and they can be deadly. Another pair of eyes that know the comings-and-goings between shifts is a safety net. An advocate helps the patient by talking, encouraging, touching, praying, and being present during a time of weakness and fear. An advocate is an ally to a good nurse.

Please support this bill as a protection to our vulnerable and to meet a basic human need.

Thank you,  
Kathy Hisel RN  
Newton, KS