

House Bill No. 2184

Support Statement from Robin M. Rose, MA, BHS/RT, FABDA

Honorable Legislature of the State of Kansas,

As a "Respiratory Therapist and Disability Analyst" that has practiced in this state for approx. 30 years, I am in support of "House Bill No. 2184", to create a comprehensive plan for the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. I have been involved in the care and treatment of this disease process from the acute care scenario, to long term acute care, home health, home medical equipment, and inpatient rehab. Facilities, as well as skilled nursing rehab. Facilities. I agree that it is imperative to have a comprehensive plan in place.

The disease process itself has such a high mortality and morbidity rates, as well as co-morbidity's that have a profound negative affect on quality of life. Left unaddressed this disease process is brutal, and affects all of us. The personal, professional, and financial burdens from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease are profound to say the least.

I have volunteered with the American Lung Association off and on through out my career. During the past approx. 18 months I have acquired a real passion to help those with this disease, through an American Lung Association initiative. It is the "Better Breathers Club" in Wichita Kansas, which is focused on providing current education, awareness, resources, patho-physiology, options, opinions, networks, and patient fellowship. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 2:00pm to 3:30pm and have had a multitude of professional speakers speak. Speakers have included; Pulmonologist, Allergist, Firemen, Meterologist, Gerontologist, Pharmacist, Respiratory Therapists, Nurses, Physical Therapist, etc.. Industries have included; Acute Care, Hospital Pharmacy, Retail Pharmacy, Home Health, Home Medical, Hospice, Pulmonary Rehab., Skilled Rehab., etc.. My volunteer position has me finding speakers, listening to the attendee's needs/requests, and finding answers to questions. Our primary goal is to keep the attendee's informed, healthy, and out of the hospital living the highest quality of life possible.

When I initially volunteered for this position as the "Facilitator" the group was meeting every other month to quarterly with approx. 15-20 regular attendee's. We now have 40-45 regular attendee's every month, have launched another program in Harvey County and have an inquiry from Butler County.

The "Better Breathers Club" has become a disease management group of sorts with a great need, great potential, and great opportunity in the community. With "CMS" focus on decreasing re-admissions for specific disease process's such as CHF, Pneumonia, Post-AMI, and COPD this ALA COPD focused program has tremendous ability to impact in a positive way the disease process, peoples life's, and reduce costs related to hospital re-admissions.

In brief the "House Bill No. 2184" is needed, and should be supported. Any additional funding to help support existing programs focused on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" and bring them together comprehensively would be incredible.

Sincerest Regards,

Robin M. Rose, MA, BHS/RT, FABDA

Robin_Rose@LCCA.com
316-734-2735 (cell)

Respiratory Therapist/Disability Analyst
Director of Marketing at "Life Care Center of Wichita