

February 14, 2018

Chairwoman Davis and Members of the Children and Seniors Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2704 which would require Informed Written Consent before a person in a nursing home could be given an anti-psychotic drug.

My Mother is in an adult care facility. She has dementia. She was diagnosed with dementia through KU Med in Wichita. My mother is currently on a low dose of an anti-psychotic drug. At one point she was hospitalized in the Behavioral Health area and received care through KU Med doctors. She was prescribed anti-psychotics....I knew little at the time....and I thought they were the experts!

I've since become aware of many things I was not told about the anti-psychotic medication prescribed to her, even though I am her designated representative. It would be a better practice if full information was provided to an adult with dementia and to their representative. Having confirmation that an individual has been provided full information about the purpose, risk, and benefits of an anti-psychotic medication and that he/she had the opportunity to give or withhold his/her consent, validated by the person's or representative's signature, seems like a reasonable precaution for such a potentially harmful drug used with vulnerable older adults.

Lisa Van Dusen, Wichita