



HEALTH SYSTEM

SLHS Security Department

TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jon Brady, Director of Security, Saint Luke's Health System

DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: Proponent of House Bill HB 2620 Interference with a Hospital

On behalf of Saint Luke's Health System and its over 12,000 employees, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2620 Interference with a Hospital.

Saint Luke's Health System currently has hospitals in south Overland Park, Iola, Garnett along with five Community Hospitals from Olathe to Kansas City, Kansas. Saint Luke's South Hospital has 162 beds, our hospitals in Iola and Garnett have 25 beds each, and the Community Hospitals have 8 inpatient beds each.

This Bill is important because as you are aware workplace violence events continue to increase in hospital and healthcare environments. This Bill will increase penalties for the intentional assault of healthcare workers, interference with the conduct of a hospital and this will be a significant help. Passing this Bill says to those that would do these things that violence against healthcare workers and interrupting healthcare services is not tolerated anywhere, especially in the State of Kansas.

This Bill closes gaps in the realm where often those with malintent often operate. At times, those who create intentional disturbances in hospitals disrupt the environment and the ability of care providers to attend to other patients. At times, when law enforcement is called, they are reluctant to utilize other current statutes as the perpetrator's actions may not clearly match the elements of current crimes and the perpetrators know this. At other times, individual workers may be reluctant to sign a complaint as the victim, due to fear, and the organization cannot sign as the victim for many charges. This Bill clarifies that those *disrupting, impairing, interfering with, or obstructing the mission, processes, procedures, or functions of the hospital* could be charged criminally. This Bill also clearly outlines that the person charged with maintaining order of that hospital environment may sign the complaint, taking some of the burden off front line staff. This in essence allows care team members to focus upon patient care, while allowing organizations to mitigate future recurrences by pursuing criminal charges with the appropriate hospital representative signing as the complainant.

It is not uncommon that some individuals will intentionally scream, yell, and create significant disruptions in hospitals when they do not get what they want. When this occurs, I have seen behaviors escalate resulting in the assault of the attending care provider. I have seen team members attacked with feces, urine, hands, fists, equipment, and other items. I am confident that this law, if used appropriately and if these charges are filed by prosecutors, will have a positive impact on hospital settings and the quality of care provided to all citizens in the State of Kansas.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Brady".

Jon M. Brady
Director of Security
Saint Luke's Health System



HEALTH SYSTEM

SLHS Security Department