

March 27, 2021

In support of SB 303

Dear Senator Hilderbrand and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider these especially important and weighty matters.

My name is Todd Sorensen. I reside in Olathe, Kansas, Johnson County, Kansas Senate District 23. My mother lives in a nursing home in Olathe Kansas. I am here to urge you to put forth legislation that will guarantee that elderly residents maintain their freedoms. The lives of my mother and I have been greatly impacted by the events of the last twelve months.

The nursing home in which she resides has, for the last five years, defended her right to make decisions. In that facility she is free to get up out of her wheelchair, without assistance and fall because restraining her would limit her freedom to choose. She is also free to refuse to shower, to take her medications, and to participate in group activities. These freedoms are her constitutional right of citizenship, to choose and direct her own life.

Yet for the past year, she has not been free to see her loved ones and touch them. She has not been free to invite others to visit her in her personal room. She has not been free to see her personal physician. These freedoms have been restricted outside the administration of the nursing home itself, specifically the CDC and CMS.

The effects of the loss of her right to choose is devastating. She has endured loneliness, isolation, and confusion that has compounded her medical conditions. She has been involuntary relocated three times within the nursing facility. She was not able to refuse these moves, which caused her additional personal pain and confusion.

I am here to urge you to put forth legislation that will guarantee that elderly residents maintain their freedoms. Please act quickly to reinstate her rights and allow her to choose and direct her life under the protection of the constitution of the State of Kansas.

Again, thank you for serving the residents of the State of Kansas and upholding truth and freedom.

Respectfully,

Todd A Sorensen