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Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Richard Hilderbrand, Chairman

and Committee

Subject: SB 303

Having been in the hospital for 50 days due to severe COVID, I can appreciate appropriate visitation adjustments in Nursing Homes/Care Facilities. I was fortunate that my doctors DID NOT want to put me in a nursing home during my recovery process after I came out of quarantine. Such was due to the facts of what medical teams have observed/experience with patients concerning their emotional morale. Even as such, I had my challenges but very blessed with the medical team and staff.

Such must be approached with the health welfare of all involved.

From personal experience, I understand the depressions that potentially can set in from “Zero Contact Isolation ~ with family and close friends. I must repeat; I was very fortunate that the medical team and staff were/are very intent on keeping one’s morale on track. However; even with such excellent care, there were “low times” during those 50 days that were very challenging.

SB303 represents “opening up” of nursing homes for “in person visitations”. Such should be done as follows:

- Indoor visits are only allowed at facilities that have gone 14 days without an outbreak and are located in counties with low levels of COVID-19 community spread.
- Visitors will have their temperature taken upon arrival, must wear masks , **resident and visitor(s) have been vaccinated**, and utilize physical distancing.

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- Residential-care residents to have visitors in their **private rooms**.

Compassionate care visits should include:

- Have been re-admitted to a facility after an acute-care admission to the hospital.
- Issues of concerns with depression.
- Have dementia that has dramatically evolved and other critical health issues that have progressed.
- Are no longer responding to loved ones during virtual visits.
- Show changes in appearance, grooming, appetite or cognition during window or virtual visits.
- Were recently admitted and are struggling to adapt to their new surroundings.
- Are grieving over a death.
- **Show signs of emotional distress, including speaking less than normal, crying more than usual, and/or changes in grooming habits**
- Were readmitted after an acute-care admission to the hospital

Compassionate care visits must be of the utmost importance for these people. Morale is a key factor in the recovery of physical and mental health.

Any questions call anytime.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Dixon