

**Kansas  
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for Better  
Care**



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HB 2649, "pain patient's bill of rights"

January 31, 2006

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Kansas Advocates for Better Care is supportive of HB 2649.

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) is a statewide non-profit organization of consumers that advocates for quality long-term care. It has been assisting/guiding consumers for more than 30 years as they try to understand and make use of the complex long-term care system of services.

Residents in long-term care settings are only part of the population that is concerned with pain relief. The prevalence of pain in frail elders living in nursing homes has been a recognized indicator of quality for several years by the federal government Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The following facts are from their Quality Indicators identified on their website. On January 25, 2006 they showed that the average percent of nursing home residents in Kansas who have moderate to severe pain was 9% while the national average was 6%. As well, the percent of short-stay nursing home residents in Kansas who had moderate to severe pain was 26% while the national average was 23%.

In the early 2000s the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supported a major national effort to educate the population about pain and pain management.

Kansas has a recognized expert on pain management, Dr. Robert Twillman, who has spent countless hours making presentations across the state to help Kansans understand pain and how to get pain relief.

HB 2649 provides a final confirmation for Kansans that their pain should be acknowledged and taken seriously by health care professionals, family members or other legally authorized persons.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2649.  
Deanne Bacco, Executive Director