



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: March 16, 2023

RE: House Bill 2264

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments regarding House Bill 2264.

Kansas hospitals remain committed to ensuring the safety of all patients, staff, and visitor's entering a hospital facility. Our members believe that having family connections for patients, particularly those receiving end of life care, is a very important component of overall patient care. While a patient's room may be a private area, there are many common areas in hospitals and adult care homes that visitors must pass through to enter a private room.

We appreciate the efforts of the bill sponsor and the House committee to ensure that patients are receiving whole-person care, including the important component of ensuring patients can visit loved ones during their stay.

We would like the committee to be aware that visitation policies in hospitals are also regulated by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services' Conditions of Participation for infection control. This requires that hospitals "must demonstrate adherence to nationally recognized infection prevention and control guidelines" (CFR 482.42). Those policies can change during infectious disease outbreaks and we want to emphasize the importance of retaining the flexibility to stay within the federal guidelines, to adhere to the Conditions of Participation that we are required to follow. Our hospitals are required to meet these Conditions of Participation, to be eligible to continue receiving payments from the Medicare program, which make up more than forty percent of the overall payments that Kansas hospitals receive each year.

We would caution that while we support HB 2264 in it's current form, any changes that would put us out of compliance or any creation of two different standards of care and operations for facilities in Kansas could cause conflicts between varying government oversight entities, would also mean that we could not support the legislation. This bill has been carefully and thoughtfully crafted as a negotiation by all parties and we would urge the committee to pass House Bill 2264 in it's current form.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.