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Proponent, HB 2343

Children and Seniors Committee

Feb. 16, 2017

Chairman Alford and members of the committee,

Kansans for Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee. We advocate for the right to life of the unborn, the medically fragile, and those requiring life-sustaining health care.

That advocacy includes opposing the denial of life-sustaining treatments to any individuals, including those with physical and mental limitations.

We have partnered with the disability community and will continue to do so, on shared concerns, like HB 2343. This measure addresses unjust discrimination in the matter of organ transplantation for individuals with disabilities, and outlines how that discrimination must be eliminated.

There should be no disqualification, or bar, to receiving life-sustaining medical treatments, based on an overt or covert opinion that individuals with disabilities are somehow "less deserving" of medical services.

Because the undefined term "medically inappropriate" has often been interpreted to encompass "quality of life" considerations, we would offer this clarifying amendment: on page 2, line 30 [Section 1(f)], by inserting before the period, "; provided, that a transplant may not be deemed medically inappropriate solely on the basis of an individual's disability, except as specified in subsection (c)."

Kansans for Life supports HB 2343, with the suggested amendment.

Kathy Ostrowski Legislative Director, Kansans for Life