



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Health and Human Services

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: February 6, 2024

RE: House Bill 2548

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments regarding House Bill 2548.

Kansas hospitals remain committed to ensuring the safety of all patients, staff, and visitors entering a hospital facility. Kansas hospitals feel that having family connections for patients, particularly those receiving end-of-life care, is a very important component of overall patient care.

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

We appreciate all of the work on this legislation and would kindly request one clarification that we believe is in-line with the intention of this legislation.

On Page 1, Line 25, inserting, *“When providing end of life care”* a patient care facility shall not....

We would like the committee to be aware as the legislation goes forward 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 request the flexibility to stay within the federal guidelines in the future.

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 would caution the committee to ensure we have the necessary flexibility that we need to meet federal compliance as the bill moves forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.