



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: February 7, 2024

RE: Senate Bill 352

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding Senate Bill 352.

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 all patients, particularly those receiving end-of-life care, is a very important component of overall patient care. We appreciate the intention of such legislation but worry that this legislation could have unintended consequences.

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 request the flexibility to stay within the federal guidelines in the future. We would caution the committee to ensure we have the necessary flexibility that we need to meet federal compliance as the bill moves forward.

While a patient’s room may be a private area, there are many common areas in hospitals that visitors must pass through to enter a private room. Our hospitals believe that these policies and sentiments are best dealt with between patients, visitors, and medical care facilities rather than in state statute.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.