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SENATE CHAMBER

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## **SB 352 The John D. Springer Patient Bill of Rights- Proponent Testimony**

2/4/2024

Dear Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

Hospitals across Kansas and the nation fell prey to bad ethical practices during the Covid response. As Senator, I received many calls from distraught constituents that had a family member admitted to the hospital then all contact with them was lost for days. I was forced to call the hospital administrator to discuss this kidnapping (as described by multiple families). The situation was resolved in short order each time but should never have occurred.

I have had countless episodes described of patient neglect, undiscussed treatment plans, medications given that were expressly refused, reimbursement - based treatment protocols, and bedsores. These stories always included the refusal to allow any visitation for many days to weeks. There is no reason for this sort of behavior to be allowed and is easily thwarted by SB 352.

A large part of this bill was written by the healthcare industry itself. The bill is fair and balanced to accommodate both provider and patient. We must not allow our citizens to be treated this way ever again.

Senator Mark Steffen, M.D.

- 1) This bill is in honor of Mr. John D. Springer. A beloved husband and father that was forced to suffer and ultimately die alone because of the unchecked Covid hospital response.
- 2) HCA Healthcare netted \$7 billion in 2022.