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Testimony in Support of HB 2562

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

It is an honor to have the opportunity to present written testimony for the Good Samaritan Law. I regret that I am unable to attend your hearing in person. However, because I feel so strongly about this law, I wanted to share my thoughts with the members of the Committee.

As a heart attack survivor, I am very passionate about granting civil immunity to lay people who offer aid during an accident or emergency. It is truly a "life or death" situation for me. My greatest fear is to have another heart attack and no one there to help me. You cannot imagine the fear that survivors possess after a life-threatening event. I only want to know that someone will try to save me through CPR or whatever means. I want them to have the opportunity to try to save me and I want that opportunity to try to help save others...with or without proper training and certification. There is nothing like the feeling I had of being a "code blue" on arrival at a hospital to know that immediate response is absolutely necessary from whoever is close by and will give you attention. Anything is better than nothing! I do not want my family to ever have to know that no one tried to save me because of the current law that did not protect them from helping their fellow man. . I want them to have the opportunity to try to save me until medical help arrives.

Although my husband and I are officially certified to administer CPR, I feel if a person is willing to try to save someone, but not certified, God Bless them! There is so much CPR awareness training on television, internet, etc., nearly everyone understands how to administer chest compressions. These wonderful people should be protected for attempting to aid their fellow man because of possible legal repercussions.

I salute the sponsors of HB 2562 and hope that this bill will have your support and that soon Kansans will have the opportunity to render aid in emergency situations without fear of repercussion or lawsuits.

Thank you for allowing me to share this testimony with you. Please feel free to contact me on my cell phone if I can respond to any questions. My number is 913-271-1465.