

Testimony of Samantha Black

In support of House Bill 2500

February, 2018

Good afternoon Chairman Johnson and members of the House Taxation Committee.

I come before you today to testify in support of House Bill 2500 which would give 501c3 status to the Friends of Hospice of Jefferson County, a group of volunteers working with hospice clients and a hospice agency.

The monies raised by Friends of Hospice of Jefferson County are used to benefit the clients we serve. These monies are used to purchase care supplies (Depends, chux, gloves, disposable wipes, mouth swabs, barrier creams and lotions, nutritional supplements such as Boost, etc.), educational materials designed to reduce fear and optimize coping as well as coverage for other charges for medication and care. Providing these benefits is a multi-prong approach to not only providing physical and emotional comfort to our clients and their families but also providing this in a home setting much of the time. If we are able to keep clients in their home or the home of a loved one it is less taxing on the state aid system Kancare as we avoid unnecessary end of life facility placement.

These monies help families because when someone you love is dying your time should be focused on them rather than worrying about the insurance coverage of their care. This last August we took care of a young man in his early twenties who was insured with Kancare who had a very large spenddown amount, \$1,069.37, which had not been met yet. It was only through this support of our volunteers that we were able to cover this expense so that his parents would not have to worry about this while he was dying.

- “Thank you so much for the support given to our family during the last months of our mother’s life. The care items provided were extremely helpful.:
- “Thanks so much for your support these last few months and especially the day Mom died. Your tender care and comforting ways made what could have been a horrific day, one that can be remembered as a gentle passing. Thank you for all your help.”
- “Thank you for all the wonderful and loving care you provided to my mother. You are special people and Jefferson County is lucky to have you. I appreciate you being my angels during one of the darkest times of my life.”
- “Thank you all from Hospice. It would take an entire book to thank you for all you did for my husband and our family. You are still a big part of our healing. I am having trouble writing this but I want you to know that I love you for his care and the love we felt from you.”
- “A thank you just isn’t enough to everyone who was involved with the care, equipment delivery, counseling etc. for my friend. This experience has been the most taxing, physically and emotionally, that I believe I’ve been through. The support, care and

compassion that was given to us was of the highest degree. I don't think that I would have made it through this as well as I did with another agency."

- "My thanks to you all for the wonderful care you gave my brother. He looked forward to each visit. You all did much to enrich his final days."
- "Thank you for your kind and gentle care of our sweet mother. We appreciate you care and ministry to those who need it most. Each of you who cared for her hold a special place in our hearts and prayers."
- "Thank you for your sympathy during our father's passing. We want you to know how much a help you all were to us. Every one of you treated Dad with love and dignity and you brought much joy into the home when you would come. You definitely brightened his last days. You will never know how much that means to us."
- "What a wonderful group! The care, concern, phone calls were amazing. We didn't feel alone in our journey we took with Mom. You didn't just take care of her needs, you took care of our family as well."
- "I want to thank you for the CareNotes you have been sending me from time to time. They are very helpful. I have a soft place in my heart for all of you Hospice folks for all the kind of treatment we received both before and since my wife's death."

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of House Bill 2500.

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