



Proponent Testimony for SB 85 Simon's Law

My name is Steve Brunk and I'm here representing the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas. We regularly communicate with thousands of individuals and families across our state. Additionally, Family Policy Alliance works in conjunction with over 40 policy councils across the country to promote a state and nation where God is honored, religious liberty flourishes, families thrive, and every life is cherished.

To that end, we are here today as a proponent of SB 85 "Simon's Law."

Simon's Law enacts reasonable policies regarding "life-sustaining measures" that ensure the rights of parents and legal guardians amidst some extremely difficult circumstances. Unbelievably, it is currently possible for doctors to issue "do not resuscitate" orders for underage patients without consulting their parents or guardians. This bill states that there shall not be a "do-not-resuscitate order" given without the written permission of a patient's parent(s) or guardian. Additionally, no health care facility shall withhold, withdraw, or restrict life sustaining measures for any patient under 18 without written consent of the patient's parent or guardian. If permission had previously been granted, there is a mechanism in this bill for a parent or guardian to reconsider.

I have personal experience with this topic. Our daughter was born with multiple birth defects, primarily Spina Bifida. Our initial doctor instructed us that nothing could be done to help her. Similar pronouncements have been made to parents of other children born with Spina Bifida. Some are told not provide any sustenance or hydration to their children. We sought the opinion of other medical professionals and then initiated some very aggressive treatments, including closing an open spinal cord and implanting a shunt into her brain. We were fortunate to be surrounded by a caring group of medical professionals, a praying church support group, and a supportive family structure.

Today, Jamie is 39, married, and has a degree in journalism. It's been a long road for her, but she is a fighter and a survivor. **Her life, and the lives of others like her, are worth fighting for. They are certainly worthy of careful, commonsense policies regarding the provision or withholding of care.**

I urge the committee to pass SB 85 favorably out of committee.

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Senate Fed and State Committee

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