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TREVOR JACOBS  
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In Support of SB 303

March 26, 2021

Thank you Chairman Hilderbrand and committee for this opportunity to stand before you and present my support and testimony for SB303.

As a fellow legislator, I am sure we all believe the same as when it comes to our oath of office. This is a duty we all take very seriously. We all stand together in this common, yet precious cause as we support the United States and the State of Kansas Constitution. Mr. Chair and Committee at the end of the day we are all more than just state legislatures, we are grandparents, parents, and children. Some of us have family members or friends in health care facilities and have been barred from having personal contact with loved ones except maybe through a glass barrier.

The importance of SB303 is personal for me because of my private sector services. This is not only an individual liberties issue, but this is a private spiritual issue for many.

Allow me to explain why I believe this. I have been ministering and preaching at nursing homes every week for 9 years. I do this to reach out to the elderly and hurting in my community to remind them and encourage them that they are valued and loved by God.

Throughout my 9 years of nursing home ministries, I have knelt and sat beside many of my little elderly friends' beds, to sing to them, to hold their hands to pray, or to read the Bible to them as they were experiencing their last days or moments of life here on earth. It has now been a year since the Covid-19 Kansas shutdowns and lockdowns and still many elderly people are denied basic human rights of not being allowed to have in person visits with loved ones and pastors. I, myself am now reduced to read of updates of deceased friends on community updates. This is sad when I think of how many of our elderly are dying alone without any spiritual care.

How many of our neighbors, friends and family members have passed away all by themselves without the right of a visit from their pastor or priest? We must not allow these current denials of personal freedom to have dominion over the rights of family and pastoral visits to continue. There desperately needs to be provisions put into place that preserve and protect the liberties of this beloved, aging generation. Let us not forget that this great generation once stood up for us so that we could experience the right to call on our pastor or priest. I realize that some have called this an emotionally charged issue, I would go even further than that and call this a heartbreaking travesty when the government denies the rights of a family member or pastor to say their love you and goodbyes to their dear ones is one of cruelty and shame.

Comfort care should also include spiritual care.

Thank you Chairman Hilderbrand and Committee for your kind consideration on SB303.