

In Support of SB 303  
March 27, 2021  
Great Bend, KS  
Senate District 33

**Chairman Hilderbrand and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members,**

My name is Meredith Rice. My mom is a 93 year old wheelchair bound nursing home resident in Great Bend.

I went to see my mom in her room on March 11, 2020 like I have been doing most every day for 3 years, but that day I was met at the door and told I couldn't come in. No warning, no notice and no opportunity to talk to her about it.

Other than, in her words, feeling like she was going to climb the walls, she held up fairly well being locked in.

But in September she began to say she no longer felt safe, she didn't want to stay there. In December the panic attacks and uncontrollable crying began. They would wheel her to the front door to see me where she would pound on the glass trying to get out.

She began to exhibit unusual behavior, very unlike her and lost 12 pounds. Still I was turned down for a compassionate care visit. There were times when the staff had to call me twice a day to come see her at the door to calm her down. "Can't you come in?" "Why won't they let me out" she cried.

There are days when she is sure she's dying. There are days when she asks the Lord to come get her.

I was turned down for summer outdoor visits, even when the positivity rate was below 10%. Her cognitive impairment has gotten much worse, to the point where she has to be told every day how to hold a telephone. I believe the fear brought on by separation from her family has caused her mental decline.

I'm thankful for the aides and staff members that take time to visit with her and help make her laugh. Many employees told me they did not understand such strict rules. The employee turnover has been excessive and constant so she can't even get attached to a staff member. Every day I go there a different face answers the door.

Was all this really necessary for a virus with 99% recovery rate??

The most frustrating thing of all is that no one has responded to help. No one has held this nursing home accountable for not allowing compassionate care or outdoor visits.

Thank you for doing everything in your power to prevent anything like this from ever happening again.

Respectfully,

Meredith Rice