

Testimony in Support of HB2031 – The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Thursday, March 09, 2017
Capitol Building, Topeka, KS

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Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 2031 to create the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council. This council will serve to benefit the citizens of Kansas in myriad ways by helping consumers better understand their options in accessing appropriate services to match their values and preferences regardless of diagnosis, treatment options or conditions with which they live.

This measure can also assist healthcare professionals by further promoting and demonstrating the benefits of team based care and constant attention being given to patient's involvement in achieving better outcomes.

Palliative care is still a poorly understood service by the general population, often overly identified with hospice care, with which it shares some tenets but is not identical.

In an effort to provide those distinctions we respectfully **request additional clarification under Sec(b)(1)(C)** that identifies other health conditions beyond hospice that require intense palliative care involvement such as "advanced illness, and chronic disease and conditions that require significant attention to symptom control to improve patient function and health outcomes."

The bill provides ample opportunities for the interdisciplinary nature of palliative care to be reflected in the appointments to the council. Given the nature of the focus on patient involvement in shared decision-making and active participation by the patient in setting goals of care - a hallmark of palliative care— we express our support for the inclusion of the representative from the patient/family perspective.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony with you and we commend the committee for consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully Submitted
John G. Carney
President and CEO, Center for Practical Bioethics