



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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|--|-------------------------------|---|------|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 1290 | | DATE: 3/29/2021 | |
| COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health Policy | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JONICA LYNN HOPE | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: jonicahope@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 10:53 AM | |
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My name is Jonica Hope and my address is 101 Ashton Ave, Clever, MO 65631. I reside in House District 139 and Senate District 20. I am testifying in support of HB 1290. I lost my father on March 6, 2021 in a very traumatic experience. I am the only child and both of my parents were in the hospital at the same time, in different hospitals, for Covid. My father unfortunately lost his battle. He was diagnosed on Feb. 10, 2021, and was admitted on Feb 21, 2021 after the technical time that he should have been released from quarantine. On Sat., Feb 20, 2021 he called me for the 2nd time asking if his phone would call 911 if he yelled at it from across the room with the proper command. It was at that point I made my daughter stay the night and the next morning I took him to urgent care where we were redirected to the ER at Mercy Hospital. When we arrived I went in with him but was told that since he was Covid positive he couldn't have any visitors. I had just come off of my quarantine on Feb. 14 and had already returned to the classroom where I teach school. When I explained that I had just had it and that I was just released they still refused to let me stay. At this point my father's POA was in effect so I had the medical and legal authority to be with him but was denied. My father was also hard of hearing and had lost 75% of his hearing. I explained this to the nurse but his response was "what will you do different then what we would do to help him?" My dad told me to not make a fuss there and gave me a big hug and told me he loved me. I had to leave but as I was walking away I turned to around and could tell he was very worried and fearful. In my gut I knew it was the last time I would ever hug my daddy. Fast forward to later in the week. He had struggled all week to get his oxygen levels up and went from the regular Covid unit to a step-down unit. On Thursday I had to run somethings up that he requested and his angel of a nurse came down to meet me. She ended up sneaking me up and that perked my dad up a bit. It was a window visit for just a couple of minutes but he still had a smile when I left. That same day he called to tell me goodbye, that he loved me and was proud of me and to take care of my mother. I told him no, don't say those things but he said he wasn't getting any better and wanted to tell me while he could. I was able to speak to him for about 15 minutes and he had me call a few other friends and a pastor friend of his. The next day he called me about something else and during that call he expressed how lonely he was and how he just wanted to see us. He said that he couldn't even see his Pastor despite asking for him. I ended up calling my pastor and he was able to speak to my dad on the phone on that Saturday. Fast forward again. My father's oxygen is still decreasing while his support needs are increasing. During this time I kept begging to see my father to no avail. On Monday I was able to get through to a charge nurse who cared and she arranged for another window visit. This would be the last time I saw my father when he was conscious. When I was leaving he asked to see my husband and that he had to speak to him in person. We tried to get my husband in on Tuesday but it wasn't allowed. During this time my dad's oxygen levels continued to decrease and he bounced back and forth between the nasal support and the bi-pap. On Wens. his nurse called and said they had dad sign paperwork to put him on the vent. I immediately called my family and sent my husband up to the

hospital to do whatever he needed to do to get to my father. At first he was turned away but he was very persistent and got to go up. The nurse wasn't happy about it and while my husband was there my dad was visibly agitated with her. My dad asked for his glasses but she told him no because he had the bi-pap on. He asked the nurse to give my husband his wallet and he was again told no because it was cross contamination. Remember, our family had Covid at the same time as dad, we all tested positive at the same time so theoretically we shouldn't have had a problem since the CDC says you are immune for 90 days. Yet, we weren't allowed back. Eventually the nurse let my husband have the wallet but it was only after further agitating my father causing his oxygen needs to increase even while my husband was there. My husband left about 7 mins after his visit started so that my dad could get his rest. My husband would be the last family member my father would see. Later that day the doctor called me and told me that dad needed to be vented immediately, that his labs were not improving and he had started to dramatically decrease. That evening his body started to reject the vent so they had to medically paralyze him. They also started him on 24 hour, round the clock dialysis because his kidneys were failing. My father went into this just wanting to touch his family one...more...time...On Friday my mother was finally discharged from the hospital. It was the first time in almost a month that I had been able to see her, which again, is insane. She walked through losing her husband of 43 years ALONE. This is not healthy. We rushed up to the hospital again, not knowing if we were going to get to see him, but I would beg if I had to. I was able to speak to the NP on the way over and she asked when I was diagnosed, when I was released, when the rest of my family was diagnosed and when they were released. She said based on that timeline we should have been let in to actually visit him and touch him on that Wednesday before...the very day he went on the vent. Because of a paperwork issue we were denied seeing my father one more time while he was conscious. That Friday, March 5, my father flatlined and was brought back, the nurse called me to tell me that it wouldn't be much longer and keep my phone close. That night at 10:00ish the doctor called and said it wasn't good, that they were having to use blood pressure meds just to keep his heart pumping. At 11:00pm we got the call that my dad's living will was not speaking for him, that the DNR was in effect and to get their quickly because she was afraid he would go into cardiac arrest and wouldn't be able to be brought back again because of the DNR orders. We rushed up. It was the first time in almost 2 weeks we got to touch my father. His organs were already shutting down. He was already turning cold. This isn't comfort care, this is just watching a loved one die. Comfort care would be allowing the patient to have their family nearby when they are conscious, especially if that family had Covid already. My father passed away at 2:17am on March 6, 2021. Covid is a strange disease. I never expected to lose my father this way. He was relatively healthy for a 68 year old man. He had no huge underlying conditions. He was extremely healthy. He was an avid outdoorsman, a hunter, a fisherman, loved to be in the woods. He still did all of his own yardwork on a 3 acre lot. He was healthy. My mother on the other hand is on dialysis, has diabetes, is obese, etc...she has all of the risks checked off yet she coughed a few times and that was it. My dad died in a cold hospital room. We were physically there but he didn't know that. All he wanted was one more visit. One more touch. He was not granted that because of stupid, illogical regulations. Based on the CDC we were fine to go in. Based on the timeline we should have been let in 3 days before he passed. But, because this is all about control we were not let in. It's going to take legislative action to force hospitals to allow families in to see their families. It is for this reason I stand in support of Rep. Boggs and HB 1290. I am more than willing to speak to anyone about this in person. If I had had a sub today I would have been there in person. I have recorded this testimony and it is found on youtube at the links below. My phone number is 417-872-3677 if anyone would like to ask me any questions about my experience. Clip 1: <https://youtu.be/lmhHONfw4-g> Clip 2: <https://youtu.be/2oLwoy80-S4> Clip 3: <https://youtu.be/6RbmrLNawGQ> Thank you and God bless, Jonica Hope 101 Ashton Ave Clever, MO 65631 jonicahope@gmail.com



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KATHY MYERS | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY D. RINKER | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HOPE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: michaelhopea1@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 11:29 AM |
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To whom it concerns; 2 weeks leading to 03/06/21, I watched my wife, mother in law, & myself deprived from visitation rights from my father in Law, despite the family testing positive a few weeks before. The few times he spoke, he spoke how lonely it was in the room. Keith was a 68 year old, healthy fisher and outdoors man. We certainly did not expect this to be his last days but would have loved to spent them with him while not in a medical comma on a ventilator. He had even tested positive over a week and 1/2 before going in. There were expectations made on 2 occasions, before saying our final goodbyes, but those were not policy and hard fault to get. This is not how your loved family is to be treated and family has so many benefits to recovery. My hope is that family members are able to be with there family, especially in challenging situations.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: REBECCA FELTMANN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: intuitivehealingcompanion@gmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 10:12 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

HB 1290 Hello. My name is Rebecca Feltmann and I am a 20 year medical professional with 17 years as a registered nurse. I also became certified as a provider of Compassionate Bereavement Care® (grief support specializing in traumatic loss) in 2019. I am writing today in support of HB1290 because as I have witnessed and studied in my tenure as a patient advocate, support through the healing process is crucial. I wish I could've been there today to speak in person, but unfortunately I had clients scheduled. I have personally witnessed in my tenure as a registered nurse the healing power of being surrounded by those that you love, and I have seen the opposite where a lack of loving support has been the detriment of somebody's healing process. I have spent the last two years working with the acutely bereaved and have found that even just having the space and connection to be so profoundly healing, any and all doubt I could've ever had about how important human connection has been reiterated for me. Visitation for those in any healing capacity should be a given, never to be negated. It is a basic need. There's actually a medical diagnosis of failure to thrive which is more often than not showing to be an issue with patients that have no support. Furthermore, for anyone interested in actual research backing these claims they must simply look at the work of Elisabeth Kubler Ross who is most well known for founding the five stages of grief based on the anticipatory grief that those suffering through the AIDS/HIV epidemic endured. These patients were treated very much in the same manner that COVID patients have been treated this last year. Nobody knew what was wrong so they simply isolated them in a corner of a hospital to die alone. Her research and work with these patients is the foundation of the hospice/palliative care movement and without her advocacy for the rights of patients to be surrounded by love and support, who knows how long these processes may have taken. The scarier thing to me is that these processes and policies haven't only been mandated for COVID patients, but for all those that have sought out medical care in the last year. I can't tell you how many stories I have heard and been witness to of people hearing terrible news alone, people dying all alone, people not having proper burial and funeral services. Not only are these practices causing immense trauma to those experiencing it, but also to the caregivers in the medical field, as well as friends and family of those suffering. There has been a profound collective traumatic event and subsequent grief due to the decisions made. I personally had to fight for the right to have my newborn child accompanied by both my husband and I when she was diagnosed with a heart defect at birth in August of 2020. We were sent for further evaluation to a local children's specialty hospital and told that only 1 of us could accompany our 1 week old baby to an appointment that could've held potentially life threatening news or decisions to be made. I knew my rights and the repercussions and fought to have both parents present with my child, but how many parents were met with these restrictions and just settled? How many had to bear devastating news alone? I feel that I cannot paint a picture that could hold a candle to the amount of despair the current policies and practices are having on so many that I have personally had contact with, much less across our state, the country, and even the world. I urge you to strongly consider this

bill to protect the lives of all those affected. The patients, the medical professionals, the loved ones. Please do not let the dedicated work of Elisabeth Kubler Ross to be in vain. We have learned these lessons before. We shouldn't be in this position now.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: REBECCA HOSACK | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: rebeccafalch@yahoo.com | | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 3/26/2021 11:21 AM |
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Hello, I am writing in support of HB 1290. Late last year, my father became gravely ill with COVID 19. My Dad didn't text and we didn't have a good way to communicate with him once he was hospitalized. He couldn't talk to us on the phone, due to the breathing support, but was still awake for the first week in the hospital. We sent him notes, but didn't hear from him. If we could have been in the room with him, we could have spoken to him and been heard. We could have sat with him and read notes to and from him and seen his expressions and taken care of him. At the very end, the hospital staff did make a few exceptions for us, but he was already sedated. We acknowledge that the exceptions in the last 2 days were gifts not given to many, but it was really too little and too late. It is our hope that he could hear us and at minimum, his spirit could receive from our time of worshipping God and sharing our love over zoom calls, but we missed having a chance to hear from him and knowing he had heard us. We had a very difficult time getting updates from the hospital staff. The medical team rarely initiated contact with updates and often we could only get information once or twice a day, after many calls of our own, even though they acknowledged he was gravely ill. They would call saying he was at a crisis point and then not call again for hours with an update. During one such crisis, we called the patient advocate for information and she couldn't even find out where he was in the hospital! It was excruciating. While we know they were busy, they were not overrun with patients and should have communicated with us. We found it very hard to advocate for his care and show him our love from outside the hospital walls. We asked for more treatment than they were willing to even try and I believe it was easy to ignore us from outside the hospital. We could have been better advocates at his side. Some evenings, members of my family sat in the hospital parking lot in our cars, praying for my Dad. We parked as close to his unit as we could seem to get, but it was not enough. Some of our family had already recovered from COVID, so at minimum, those of us with immunity should have had the chance to be at Dad's side during his hospitalization. We would have had someone at the hospital continually, had it been allowed. It was crushing to not be there to support him while he walked through his last days on earth. As Christians, we know that God was present with him, but we desired the opportunity to be there as well. People are avoiding getting the medical care they need because they do not want to be hospitalized and kept from their families. Rules allowing these practices of extreme restriction of basic rights to be with family are costing many their lives and many others much needed time together and sense of closure. Please help change the laws to protect families in these very difficult situations. Thank you.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 11:45 PM | |
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I am Opposed to this Bill. This is a Hospital and Health issues and decision.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-291-9555 |
| REPRESENTING: MOSAIC LIFE CARE | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: PO BOX 156 | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65102 |
| EMAIL: brent@brenthemphill.com | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 12:42 PM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 213 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 12:00 AM | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: NIKKI STRONG | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-2060 | |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: 236 METRO DRIVE | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2021 12:00 AM | |
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