

I am sorry that I was not able to testify at previous hearings for this bill. I just had a long conversation with Rep Prax's staff on this and the so called "issues" by the Hospitals.

My understanding from the call today is that the Feds say that Hospitals can have any rules and regulations they deem necessary to protect themselves and the workers. Fine, but and this is the big but, those regulations can and should be challenged when they are wrong, harm patients and patient families as was done during the China Virus pandemic. To deny families from being with their loved ones is violating basic rights of the patient and those families. The actions of the hospitals was more out of fear vs real science. All hospitals had PPE at many different levels that any and all family members could have used to protect the workers from a possibility of contracting the China Virus in this case. Add to that those same staff were in the communities and interacting with strangers without the level of PPE that they have in the hospitals, thus if they contract that virus, there is no way they could point to family members in the hospital.

Hospitals are wanting to be held harmless from lawsuits be that from angry families that were denied access to loved ones or hospital workers claiming they contracted the disease from families. To me, as a health care worker, we all have a risk of contracting a disease in caring for our patients. When HIV/AIDS first came out we masked up and took extraordinary precautions at the EMS level. Prior to that PPE use and levels at the hospital to EMS was far less than we have now. I can't count the times of encounters of patients where we got blood and body fluids into our eyes, unprotected skin, doing mouth to mouth resuscitation and then being told that under HIPPA law, we could not know if the patient was positive for HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis B! EMS was not testing us for HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis B exposure. In point of fact, I had a job going to Russia as a Site Paramedic and to get into Russia I had to be tested for HIV/AIDS. That was years after HIV/AIDS came out, needless to say the level of anxiety was high when I opened the envelope! Fortunately was negative. The level of PPE and Infection Control procedures have and are highly evolved compare to then. The hospitals have the PPE to give to the families so they can see their family members, thus protecting the staff.

Per Prax staff, the hospitals are concerned about the cost of camera's in the patient rooms to stop families from doing something the "rules" say they can't do. My wife had a camera in her room because she was a fall risk. Yet to use a room camera to enforce rules, such as hugging the loved one, giving them a kiss is just plain stupid. Frankly knowing many nurses they would look the other way. If a person came in to stop me, there would be hell to pay as well!

Bottom line is I can't begin to imagine the harm, anxiety, loss and anger those that were denied to be with loved ones during this pandemic. I was able to be with my wife throughout the 20 days she was in the hospital. I know it would have taken an army to keep me from her! The lies that were used to push this agenda have now been shown to be just that lies and the use of fear to control people. Then when the people and real science showed that the "science" was fake, then the weaponizing politically toward those that were demanding to see their loved one and those of us that were not and will not comply with all the mandates has caused long lasting if not even harm that cannot be undone. Where we once listened to our Doctors and scientist, we have lost any faith that they are speaking the truth. That is a harm to the medical community that will last I for decades to come.

Thus, this bill will give us the ability for when the next medical issue comes up so that those actions do not repeat themselves. Hopefully the medical community has learned to not do this again, sadly, the Administrators and other high level scientists and the CDC, I believe learned a valuable lesson. How to control a nation with fear, propaganda and a media fully on their side to take away freedoms, thus, this bill must be passed and then enforced to the max!

Mike Coons
President, Concerned Conservatives of Alaska
[REDACTED]

Dear Rep Vance:

Thank you for creating and advocating the No Patient Left Behind Act. Following is the letter I have written to the Health & Social Services Committee.

Thank you.

Katie Nolan
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99522-2462
[REDACTED]

Dear Chair Rep Prax and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my viewpoint with your Committee re: HB 52, the No Patient Left Alone Act.

Three years ago I was unaware of a health issue. All I know is that I was getting weaker and more lethargic every day. When my husband finally called for an ambulance, I could barely stay awake long enough to respond to the paramedics.

At the hospital it was discovered that I had a severe viral infection and, if left alone for another day, would have succumbed. I was immediately given two missing pints of blood and placed on the infectious diseases floor, where I remained for six days. As visiting my room required "gowning up" for staff and visitors, I was only minimally seen by staff.

Throughout this time, I was unable to adequately communicate with my physicians and nurses of my needs. Whenever I attempted to explain a problem to staff, I could either not make myself clear or I would be crying from the pain. I believe the only reason I survived this harrowing experience was because throughout each day and into the night my husband was there to communicate for me.

Three days after I was released, that hospital, Providence, closed its doors to all but the patients. I cannot imagine the terror experienced by a patient in my condition being locked away from a spouse, child or parent. In my opinion, what Providence did was criminal, and our family will no longer use Providence for anything.

When I first read Rep Vance's HB 52, I was thrilled that someone was taking measures to ensure that no patient would ever again be abandoned at Providence. With this Bill, administrators can no longer make the cold-hearted decision to isolate patients from their representatives or threaten family members. In my opinion, those that carried out those administrative orders were criminally responsible, and those that created the orders should be charged.

Please forward this Bill out of Committee and ensure that all patients have access to a representative of their choice. Thank you.

Sarah, I strongly support this bill. It is so important to have family or a friend with you in a time of a health issue.

Thank you!

Richard Cameron

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Representative Vance, thank you for bringing HB52 up this session for another chance to advocate for patients' rights. What I wanted to say during my testimony that although my terrible experience was at an out of state hospital, all hospitals and care facilities were given the same direction: no visitors. I wanted to say that several phone calls last year to my previous employer demonstrated similar experiences here in Alaska. I will make sure to call each committee member, because nobody should have to be alone in the hospital. I wish I would have said during my testimony that each night I had to door dash food for the next day, went without provisions and my own medications for 7 days holding my ground and not leaving my moms side. I often would think in disbelief that such treatment would actually occur in the United States. I even took a picture of the door inside the hospital because of how petrified I was that it locked behind me to get back to my moms room. Thank you and may God bless you for speaking up and advocating for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Kelli Toth
Chugiak

Hi Sarah...

Just a note to tell you that I absolutely oppose HB52. Those of you behind it probably have the best of intentions, but it is one more step toward complete government control of what's left of private enterprise. If the bill applied only to public (government) hospitals, I might see it differently.

Thanks for reading this,

John O'Larey

Anchor Point

Hi! My name is Nicki Kumfer. I am in district 6. I am in support of HB-52. My Aunt died alone in the hospital with no family allowed to be with her during Covid 19. It was heart wrenching for all of us .

Thank you for your time!

My name is Brenda Edens of District 6. I am in support of HB 52. My mom died a few years ago in the hospital and I can't imagine not being there with her for her sake as well as mine.

Thank you for your pursuit on this issue.

Brenda Edens

Sent from my iPhone

Hello Sarah,

I appreciate your dedication and attention to detail on the Bills you have written.

I called and talked to Elesheva yesterday regarding the different bills. She sent some links to me.

Since I wasn't successful in being able to open the bills, I know some of the ones I really want to support.

I would like to support the ones you wrote as I know that my values match with yours.

HB2 Prohibit Discrimination against Israel

HB4 Repeal Rank Choice Open Primary. (RC manipulates the numbers in a way that eliminates the candidates who are favored by the majority of the voters. It is a shell game which enables a person to win who)

HB21 School/University Health Insurance. It will save money and be more in-line with the population who are not government officials.

HB 52 No Patient left alone. It is the right of the people to be with their loved ones during the dying process. It is shameful to prohibit a dying person to not have family with them at the end of their life. It is just wrong that the government and powers to be can allow this. Never again!

To me it is unbelievable that our society has come to needing to pass bills to Protect women's sports from men competing with them and protect Parents rights over their children in schools. .I support both: SB 140 and SB 96..

I support SB31 to change the way the judges are elected. This practice has led to behavior that is excessively close and resistant to outside influence. The people need to vote the judges in and out as needed according to their decisions and ability to 'do justice'.

Most sincerely,

Laurie Heckert

My name is Tom Hagen, I live in Homer and I absolutely support HB52 no patient left behind.

Good afternoon Representative Vance,

In light of the current legislature, I am reaching out as a fellow Homer-ite and a constituent to ask you to consider the following. First I thank you for the work you do and the personal sacrifices you make as a public servant.

Regarding HB 1 and 4, whatever it takes to get rid of ranked choice voting, I wholeheartedly support your efforts to do so. Thank you for introducing a bill to get rid of the garbage that many Alaskans were swindled into voting for and which has had such an adverse affect on our voting.

HB 22 and pensions for police and firefighters. I ask you to vote against this bill for the financial stability of our state. The pension program is not responsible and would be punting the cost of the retirement system to the state to taxpayers down the road instead of placing the burden on those currently involved. Please take note, I ask this as a current police officer under the Tier IV plan, and would likely see significant financial benefit from it.

HB 27: I think this speaks for itself, on the level of absolute truth and not enabling this terrible gender agenda, please vote in favor this.

HB 30: I agree Alaska should remain on the same time zone all year long, however we should remain on Standard Time, calculated by our longitudinal location and the rising and setting of the sun. I fail to see

what benefit permanent DST would provide, or what agenda Rep Ortiz may have to present it, or what lobbyist is pushing it through him. If it isn't broke don't fix it, DST broke it, Standard Time is just that, standard.

HB 52: Thank you thank you thank you, please prioritize this one!

I have not had the time to review all of them, and I know I'm one of many people asking you to heed my request. Thank you for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Kellen Stock

Subject: Patient's Rights, HB52

This is a great bill and we support it. Loved ones need more freedom to help each other. That should be a given.

Note: Does this need a companion bill or not?

Jon and Ruth Ewig