

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 236 The “Never Alone Act”

In October, 2021, my 53 yr old husband was left to die alone at Legacy Meridian Hospital in Tualatin, Oregon. He was otherwise healthy man who didn't take any prescribed medicines. He was in the hospital only 12 days and lost 25 pounds. The hospital notes state he was tied down. He was not given any iv hydration despite the fact he was having trouble breathing and he was battling a fever.

He was then intubated, and it is documented that two of three days after he was put in a medical coma, no one had entered his room to check his feeding tube. He went without nutrition and the next day they called me to say it was time to remove life support.

The Covid protocol absolutely made no medical sense. I was never allowed to enter the hospital as they had National Guard at every entrance. They said since he was COVID positive I was not allowed in, but the day they removed the ventilator, suddenly it was ok to go in. He was cold. He was already gone. The entire time he was in the hospital, I was only allowed to see him through a window standing outside! He was left completely alone while they grossly heavily sedated him. He absolutely could not advocate for himself, and I was left out of his care even though I had power of attorney. It was all illegal!

My husband of 30 years said goodbye to me over a text message. Is the quality of care we expect from our nation!?

The hospital medical director told me his hands were tied. He stated they had no choice in how to treat Covid patients.

My husband even tried to call the police the day before they put him a coma. He knew he was being mistreated and he wouldn't make it out of there alive yet he had no one to advocate for him. The hospital would not return my calls. I had no idea what was going on and if he was alive or dead.

We must do better. It was inhumane what they did in the name of “safety”. I implore this committee to vote YES on HB 236.”

Thank you!!

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