Charlie Imthurn was born and raised in Kansas and he dedicated his life to protecting and improving our state. Ten years after his passing, he continues to make his mark by helping the thousands of Kansans who live in assisted living facilities.

Read Charlie & Rachel's Full Story

Charlie lost his life just 9 days after being wrongfully evicted from his assisted living facility in 2011. On January 28, 2021, after 10 long years of fighting, his wife Rachel finally was able to tell his story to the Kansas legislature. Charlie’s Bill, introduced by Rep. Highland, is House Bill 2004. If passed, HB 2004 will help to protect other Kansans, just like Charlie, from arbitrary, one-sided evictions from their homes in Home Plus, Assisted Living and Residential Health Care Facilities by giving them the right to appeal. Join Rachel and KABC in righting the wrong committed against Charlie and ensure this tragic scenario doesn’t keep happening to other Kansans who live in assisted living type facilities. Ask the Children and Seniors committee members to support HB 2004.

Advocacy In Action

On January 6, KABC attended the Quality Care Improvement Panel, also known as the Bed Tax panel, which reviewed the annual report to be provided to the legislature.

KABC also presented its 2021 Public Policy Priorities to the Douglas County Legislative Caucus.

On January 28th, KABC & Rachel Imthurn provided testimony as a proponent on HB 2004, Kansans’ Right to Appeal Assisted Living Facility Evictions, a/k/a Charlie’s Bill before the House Children and Seniors Committee. Listen to the testimony.

KABC provided neutral testimony on HB 2114, creating the Senior Care Task Force.

Resources

Support KABC At No Cost!

Dillons/Kroger Before you shop at Dillons for your Valentine’s Day chocolate, be sure to designate KABC as your Community Rewards Charity to improve elder care as you shop. Click the photo to sign up and designate KABC as your charity of choice!
February is

**National Cancer Prevention Month**
There are approximately 1.7 million new cases of cancer diagnosed per year in the United States. Many, if not most, of these cases may have been preventable. To kick off National Cancer Prevention Month, the National Foundation for Cancer Research encourages its readers to pick up cancer-preventative habits. It is never too late to start living a healthier life! Learn more [here](#).

- [National Self-Check Month](#)
- [World Cancer Day- February 4](#)

**Lewy Body Dementia Awareness Month**
Lewy body dementia (LBD) is the 2nd most common type of progressive dementia after Alzheimer’s disease. Because LBD symptoms may closely resemble other more commonly known disorders like Alzheimer’s disease, it is currently widely under-diagnosed. The [Lewy Body Dementia Association](#) has tons of great information and [free resources](#). Check it out!

**American Heart Month**
Heart disease is responsible for most deaths worldwide for both men and women of all races. The good news is that heart disease is preventable. Controlling these risk factors can reduce a person's risk for a heart attack and stroke by more than 80 percent. [Read more](#) about heart disease, statistics and how you can do your best to prevent it!

**COVID-19 Resources**

On March 13, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a lockdown order, banning everyone but essential personnel from entering nursing homes. As a result, nursing home residents began a months-long period of isolation - cut off from their families. Those who could took advantage of electronic visitation, but because of a lack of resources or due to a resident’s medical condition, this was not possible for all residents. The lockdown severely restricted families’ ability to monitor their loved ones' care. Further compounding isolation was CMS’s barring of state survey agencies and long-term care ombudsmen from entering homes. **Consumer Voice** had grave concerns that lockdowns would exacerbate pre-existing staffing shortages and result in harm to residents.

Read the [National Consumer Voice article](#) on the effects this lockdown has had on residents. **Do you have a story to share with KABC? Email us!**

**Advocacy Resources for Compassionate Care Visits and Families of Long-Term Care Residents**
Compassionate care visits are special visits in which a family member or other visitor provides comfort, support, and/or assistance to a resident whose well-being is suffering or at risk, or who is dying. **Consumer Voice** has created a fact sheet *Making the Case for Compassionate Care*. **Read more COVID information for residents & families.**

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**About Kansas Advocates for Better Care**
KABC is a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to improve long-term care for older adults in Kansas. Our mission is achieved through public policy advocacy, trainings and education, and by providing guidance & support to older adults and their families who need help with long-term care issues.

**Our Contact Information**
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*Organization Name*  
*Organization Address*  
*Organization Phone*  
*Organization Website*  
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**Amazon Smile**
Amazon donates a percentage of each item purchased through their website to a charity of your choice. Before you click that “Buy Now” button, designate KABC as your Amazon Smile charity and better care with every purchase! [Here’s how](#).

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Your donations help strengthen our advocacy work to assure aging adults and Kansans with disabilities always have quality long-term care. Thank you!