



Inside Scoop August 2021

KABC's Newest Advocate Kayleigh

Your August membership allows KABC to train our newest elder advocate, student intern Kayleigh McCoy! Kayleigh is earning her degree in Applied Studies of Family & Human Services from Washburn University. Kayleigh will help with many of KABC's projects, including our Outcomes & Impact Research. This research project evaluates KABC's information and referral program by following up with older adults and caregivers who have contacted KABC for help.

"Hello, my name is Kayleigh McCoy, and I am a student at Washburn University. I am currently studying Family and Human Services with plans to graduate this December 2021 with my associate degree. My connection to older adults is through my mom who has worked healthcare and specifically private care geriatrics. Growing up I would go to work with her to help and interact with clients forming relationships with them. Another connection is I also worked at Pioneer Ridge Assisted Living. I chose to intern at KABC because I believe in their mission of helping and advocating for the elderly."

Advocating In The Off Season

Although the Legislature is in the interim session, your August gift is keeping KABC's advocacy strong! You may remember The Senior Care Task Force created by the House Children and Seniors Committee this year during the session, and that your support successfully advocated for Executive Director, Margaret Farley, to have a seat at the table. KABC testified on HB 2114 which authorizes the Senior Care Task Force, and asked for a representative of the Alzheimer's Association to be added to the Task Force especially since care of persons with Alzheimer's is one of the study topics. KABC also agitated for study of Home and Community Based Services to counter balance the focus on Nursing Facility issues, and HCBS was added to the list of topics. Thanks to your August membership, KABC will be in attendance at the first task force meeting next Thursday September 9th at 9:00 AM, and request the task force consider recommending the creation of a legal appeal right for persons who are involuntarily discharged from assisted living facilities. KABC member Rachel Imthurn will testify in support of adding the right to a hearing to make the appeal fair. The Task Force will make a preliminary report in 2022, and final recommendations in 2023. Study topics include, in addition to care of persons with Alzheimer's, use of anti-psychotics, adult day care, prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation, home and community based service, surveys and fines, and the Senior Care Act. You might say this is a "Very Tall Order" and you'd be right! Thanks to your support, KABC will work hard to make sure the voice of older Kansans is heard!



The Most Difficult Decision

Your August gift helped **65** Kansans like Ernest, who had to make the difficult and stressful decision to move his wife to an assisted living after she stopped improving in rehabilitation following an injury. Ernest was overwhelmed with the number of facilities to choose from, and wasn't sure how to compare them against one another. Thanks to your gift KABC talked Ernest through considerations such as staff to resident ratios, the level of care his wife needs now and what she might need in the future. From there KABC helped Ernest narrow down his choices and provided detailed consumer reports for each facility based on state inspection data, as well as a copy of our booklet "[Assisted Adult Care Facilities](#)". KABC even walked Ernest through his wife's right to physical therapy regardless of improvement thanks to the [Jimmo v. Sebelius](#) Settlement Agreement.

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