



Inside Scoop September 2021

Held Hostage By Hospice

Your October gift helped **62** Kansans like Blanche, who was being misinformed by a hospice provider. Blanche's husband was diagnosed with dementia by a neurologist, so they enrolled him in in-home care services to remain at home as the disease progressed. Everything was going smoothly until his primary care physician decided hospice care was better. Blanche was not given a choice of which company, and her husband was asked to sign off on it despite his diminished cognition. He doesn't remember signing anything, and Blanche never received a copy of the paperwork. When the hospice team came in they took over; claiming Blanche's husband would have to pay out of pocket to see his doctors unless hospice made the appointments, and made plans to remove all medications from the home so that he couldn't take anything but what they give him. When Blanche attempted to revoke the hospice, the company claimed they needed a specific letter with 'legal language' telling them they do not want to have their services any longer and then hand-deliver it to the company. Thanks to your gift KABC walked Blanche through her rights as her husband's power of attorney, including the right to request discharge. We informed her that she can make her own appointments at whichever doctor she would like her husband to see, and that the only legally required items to include in the letter to revoke hospice services are the patient's name, the desire to revoke services and the date they are ending. With this information Blanche called a meeting with the social worker from the doctor's office and a nurse from the hospice company to exercise her right to discharge her husband from hospice, and the paperwork was signed that day.

Training Interns To Apply For Grants

Your October membership trained KABC's Washburn University student intern Kayleigh McCoy to write and submit a grant application on behalf of KABC! The Merc Co+op grocery store in Lawrence offers the Change Program Grant, which selects a nonprofit each month to be the beneficiary of the money collected from shoppers rounding up their purchase to the next dollar. KABC was last granted this money in 2019, totaling nearly \$9,000! Thank you for training KABC interns to help secure critical funding for our advocacy with older adults and caregivers.

Calling On Federal Protections for Nursing Home Residents

On October 11th your Circle of Care membership allowed KABC to call on the federal government to increase protections for nursing home residents across the country. The Budget Reconciliation bill being considered by the House of Representatives includes important provisions for increased protections for nursing home residents. The

provisions would address funding to improve the accuracy and reliability of certain skilled nursing facility data; ensure accurate information on Medicare cost reports; provide necessary funds to improve the survey and oversight process; and address insufficient staffing by providing a necessary path towards achieving minimum staffing standards. Thanks to your gift, KABC partnered with 68 national and state long-term care and disability advocacy groups to [send a letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy calling for the House to maintain these provisions in the final bill. Thank you for advocating at the national level to protect resident rights!

Thank You For Making Elder Care Better Every Day!



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

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