From:	Misty Roberts
To:	Rep. Mike Clampitt
Cc:	DeAnne Mangum (Rep. Mike Clampitt)
Subject:	Problems With No Visitor Policies at Western North Carolina Hospital
Date:	Tuesday, January 19, 2021 01:35:44 PM
Importance:	High

Dear Mike,

I am the president/founder of Medical Patient Modesty (http://www.patientmodesty.org), a non-profit organization based out of Waynesville, NC that works to help educate patients and their families about how to have maximum modesty for procedures; how to stand up for their rights requesting a same-sex medical team for intimate procedures; and how to prevent sexual abuse by medical professionals. We also work to educate medical professionals on how to be more sensitive to patient modesty. We encourage patients to have a personal advocate with them in many situations.

I am disappointed that numerous hospitals in North Carolina especially Western North Carolina have reinstated a no visitor policy. **The truth is this policy does more harm than good.** More people will die from non-COVID health issues such as heart attacks now because they will forego potentially life-saving medical procedures because they do not want to recover alone. Also, more patients especially the elderly will give up the will to live since they do not have a loved one present to support them in their recovery. Also, patients who were forced to recover alone at the hospital may forego medical care in the future because they were so traumatized by recovering alone. This policy also opens the doors for more medical mistakes, negligence, and more overworked doctors and nurses. I've heard some horror stories at Mission Hospital. Some elderly patients won't eat unless a family member helps them to eat so they become malnourished and it hinders their recovery.

My statement to all hospitals is: **If it is possible to use infection control measures such as health screenings and required masks to move doctors and nurses, cooks and janitors, in and out of health-care facilities safely, then there is no reason why a family member or a friend cannot follow the same steps as hospital employees.**

I developed this video, Zero Visitor Policy During Coronavirus Pandemic - YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppC5GDsGP8c) back in November because I was concerned hospitals would implement this policy again. I use sign language when I talk in this video because I am deaf. Please watch this video and read the article I wrote about the No Visitor Policy at http://patientmodesty.org/novisitorpolicy.aspx.

A list of hospitals that have reinstated the no visitor policy are:

1.) Mission Hospital in Asheville
2.) All Mission Health affiliated hospitals in NC: Angel Medical Center, McDowell Hospital, and Transylvania Hospital
3.) Pardee Hospital and AdventHealth in Hendersonville
4.) Haywood Regional Medical Center
5.) Harris Regional Medical Center
6.) Murphy Medical Center

Many hospitals east of Marion allow each person have one visitor. In fact, look at how Duke

Health has a much more compassionate policy. Look at their visitor restrictions by going to Visitor Restrictions in Place | Duke Health. They understand the important role a loved one plays in a patient's care team and at the same time takes controlling spread of COVID-19 seriously. It looks like hospitals in Winston-Salem area allow each non-COVID patient to have one support person.

I was wondering if you could please help by with putting pressure on hospital administrators to abandon this horrible no visitor policy and require them to let every patient have one support person with them. This is on the condition the support person follow the same infection control measures as hospital employees (ex: required masks and health screenings). Please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,
Misty