

Everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors. Today, too many people experiencing disability are not able to access healthcare, are denied support from people they trust while they are hospitalized or having end of life discussions. I have a brother-in-law who has several things going against him. First, he has cerebral palsy from birth. Second, he speaks very little English, and has almost zero comprehension for any English words; he speaks a familial dialect of Hindi that only family members understand. Third, he is an American citizen. My concern is that without this law, if my brother-in-law needs to be hospitalized, he won't be allowed to have any personal caregivers in his room to attend to his needs, including communication. Without my wife, for instance, at his side, his story will never be told, he won't communicate, and after he died for lack of emergency care, there would be a huge outrage leading to who knows what. I think it's vitally important to allow personal caregivers into an emergency facility in order to continue the care to their client/patient. In my wife's case, this is her brother we're talking about. Otherwise it's a trust issue; where the patient doesn't trust the healthcare providers, and healthcare is denied, or worse yet, ignored. The time is now to fix this problem by voting to enact LC 52 as a bill, and get that to the Governor.

Cheers,
David Priestap