

Laura Turcotte  
Sumner

I am in support of LD 1039, An Act to Safeguard the People's Voice in a State of Emergency.

At 38 weeks pregnant, my then 20 month old had broken his arm, and I had to, alone, take him into the emergency room. He had to have X-rays and surgery at 11 o'clock at night. I could not be with him during the X-ray, because I was pregnant. Being up all night with him, without my husband, during the procedure, was so tough. Due to the hospital policy allowing only one parent in at a time, my husband was not allowed to accompany me, even though my husband worked in healthcare and understood universal precautions. My 20 month old child really wanted his mom, but the strain that put on me caused Braxton-Hicks contractions. I was in the hospital with him for a day and a half, because if my husband had relieved me, I would not have been allowed back later.

It also grieved me, as a hospice worker, to (due to company policy) witness people having only two family members at a time allowed to visit during their final days. Families had to choose which family members would be in the room as their loved one's time was slipping away. The stress that this added to these families was heartbreaking. The strain on the remaining family members, during these limitations, added an element that we had never before had to counsel them through.

I believe that Senator Lisa Keim should be able to represent the people and share with her colleagues these stories we have endured, as the governor should not be allowed to continue extended emergency orders without a legislative vote.

Laura Turcotte