

Dear Senator Johnson,

My name is **Victoria Kreher**, and I am submitting this testimony for your **September 28, 2026 meeting** regarding COVID hospital protocols and families who lost loved ones during the pandemic.

My husband, **Mike Kreher**, died in **February 2021** after being hospitalized at **Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital in Sumter, South Carolina**. I am not writing as a medical expert. I am writing as his wife, based on what I saw, what I was told, and what his documents state.

Before this illness, to my knowledge, Mike had no chronic medical conditions and took no daily medications. He had completed his yearly physical approximately one month before becoming ill, and I am not aware of any serious health concerns. His death certificate states **COVID** and **acute kidney failure**. To my knowledge, he had never had kidney problems before this hospitalization.

When I took Mike to the emergency room, he had been coughing badly, but he was still alert, communicating, and able to walk into the hospital. He told me to get out and give him a hug. I told him to go ahead inside and that I would park and be right behind him. Because of COVID restrictions, I was not allowed in. That was the last time I saw him.

During the first day, I was told Mike remained in the emergency room for approximately **12 hours** while coughing and struggling, with little or no food or drink. Communication from the hospital was limited. As his wife, I was not allowed to be with him, see his condition, comfort him, or advocate for him.

Mike was later placed in a hospital room and put on breathing support, which I believe was **BiPAP or a similar device**. On Monday, after he had already been placed in a room, I spoke with him by phone for the last time. Mike was even-tempered and rarely showed anger. He told me, **"I'm mad. I'm scared. I'm pissed. And I love you."** Those were the last words I ever heard him say.

I understand from his treatment records that Mike was given **remdesivir**. I was also told he was heavily sedated. The hospital then moved toward placing him on a ventilator. I was not given a clear explanation of treatment options, risks, or alternatives, and I did not feel included in the decision-making process.

On **Tuesday morning at 1:31 a.m.**, I received a call telling me Mike had coded and that I needed to come to the hospital. I have never understood why I was not allowed to be with him before that point, but was suddenly allowed to come when he was coding. That question has stayed with me.

Mike died within approximately **five hours** of being placed on the ventilator.

I respectfully ask your office to review COVID hospital protocols, including remdesivir, sedation, ventilation, visitor restrictions, informed consent, communication with spouses and families, acute kidney failure during treatment, and whether hospital protocols or outside guidance affected the care families received.

I am not making extreme accusations. I am asking for answers. I want to know whether Mike was given all reasonable options, whether I was properly informed, and whether these protocols contributed to outcomes that may have been preventable.

Mike was not a statistic. He was loved, he was scared, and he told me he loved me. He deserved to have his wife beside him, and I deserved clear communication about what was happening to him.

Sincerely,
Victoria Kreher