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MPP Fraser introduces private members bill calling for a Patient Bill of Rights that includes access to essential caregivers

Today, MPP John Fraser introduced his private members bill ***The Connecting Care Amendment Act (Patient Bill of Rights)*** that would, if passed, modernize and protect patient rights when receiving care in any healthcare setting in Ontario, as well as introduces the important concept of an Essential Caregiver into legislation.

MPP Fraser called on the government to support this bill that will enshrine a Patient Bill of Rights into *The Connecting Care Act, 2020*, so that when patients are receiving care across the healthcare system, their rights would be clearly defined.

In June 2020, the Ford Government passed Bill 175, *The Connecting People to Home and Community Care Act, 2020*. This bill removed the vital Bill of Rights from Home Care legislation, with a promise to move it into regulation. Rights of individuals should be preserved in legislation, not in regulation. Regulations are easily changed and do not have fulsome legislative oversight.

The bill provides a definition of an essential caregiver and the patient's right to designate one. "COVID-19 has revealed the important role that essential caregivers play in our healthcare system and the tragic results when they are denied access" said MPP Fraser.

The bill also clearly outlines patient's rights when receiving care, including the right to transparency, access to information, freedom from stigma & harassment and a patient's right to an appeal if they believe their rights have been infringed upon.

"COVID-19 has been the great revealer in our society, one of which being the importance of essential caregivers and I am pleased that we have been able to address that in this bill" said MPP Fraser. "A Patient Bill of Rights must be enshrined in legislation if we are to have a truly patient centered healthcare system. I look forward to working with members on all sides of the house to make this a reality".

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