



## **SUPPORT THE HOSPITAL VISITATION BILL**

In times of medical crisis, patients and their families should be free from fear of discrimination. The Hospital Visitation bill would allow any adult patient in a healthcare facility to designate any other adult to be treated as family by the facility's staff. Passing this legislation is an important step on our journey toward a fair Kentucky for everyone.

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance **supports the Hospital Visitation bill** as a policy that treats all Kentuckians with dignity and respect.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- Families come in all shapes and sizes. The hospital visitation bill will protect all families by alleviating the fear of being separated, keeping them together at times of medical crisis, and preventing them from having to tell lies about their relationships.
- Healthcare providers and public health advocates understand how important it is for patients to feel respected and secure in healthcare settings.
- Worry and anxiety have a significant negative impact on recovery times (e.g. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)
- When patients are secure in the belief that they will not suffer discrimination, they can focus their energies on getting better instead of worrying about what personal information they can safely share.
- The 2000 census identified same-sex couples in all 120 Kentucky counties.
- A Hospital Visitation bill sailed through the 2007 Virginia legislature on the "uncontested calendar." Wisconsin, New York, and West Virginia have also adopted such legislation.