‘Columbo’ daughter pushes for a bill that protects the right to visit sick parents

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/06/06/columbos-daughter-pushes-for-bill-that-protects-right-to-visit-sick-parents.amp.html

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Peter Falk’s Daughter Urges Change in Colorado Laws regarding guardianship

DENVER – Catherine Falk, the daughter of actor Peter Falk who portrayed Colombo for years on television and died in 2011, was at the Colorado Legislative session Wednesday to push for changes in the state’s probate laws and pass the Peter Falk Act.

When Peter Falk was in his final years battling Alzheimer’s disease, she was banned from seeing him by her estranged stepmother. She took her fight to probate court where the process cost $100,000.

“That’s the problem, we are advocating this bill because people don’t have this kind of money,” Falk said. “I come here today no longer just the daughter of Peter Falk.”

The Falk Act would make it harder for adult children to be

banned from seeing or caring for loved ones.

“We have a growing problem of people being isolated from family and friends,” said State Sen. Laura Woods, who proposed the bill.

The Judiciary Committee cleared the bill on Wednesday and sent it to the Appropriations Committee. The Colorado Bar Association has spoken out against the bill.

Representatives said they are willing to work with Woods on future versions of the bill. The Colorado Bar Association said the current system should be able to address the issues that the victims have addressed.

Woods is planning on introducing other probate reform measures this session.

Actor Peter Falk’s Daughter Urges Change in Colorado Law to promote Guardianship rights

Actor Peter Falk’s Daughter Pushing For Change In Legal Guardianship Law

DENVER (CBS4) – Some Colorado lawmakers want to strip some the decision making power from legal guardians, and they’re getting help from the daughter of a famous actor.

The bill is named after Peter Falk, the actor who played Columbo on TV. What it does seems basic – it simply allows

families to see their loved ones when they become incapacitated. It’s about the power of guardians and the rights of some of the most vulnerable Coloradans.

Peter Falk was known to TV viewers as the disheveled, endearing detective Columbo. Catherine Falk knew him as “Dad.

“He was exactly the same on screen as off screen,” Catherine Falk said. “He was just this tender, really funny, goofy person.”

But Peter Falk’s life would take a tragic turn when he developed Alzheimer’s disease. His second wife isolated him, forcing his daughter to go to probate court just to see her father before he died.

“It cost me close to $100,000 in my money, not my dad’s money, my money to get in just before he passed away; that’s wrong,” Catherine Falk said.

Sen. Laura Woods, R-Jefferson County, agrees.

“The same program designed to protect these vulnerable citizens also exposes them to exploitation,” Woods said.

She’s introduced a bill – named after Peter Falk – that would prohibit guardians from cutting off contact with family.

“The guardian assumes all of the rights of the person that they are guardian for; so they can say, ‘No visitors, no phone calls, no mail,’ and really isolate the most vulnerable in our society, which are the elderly and adults with disabilities,” Woods said.

The Colorado Bar Association says the bill is unnecessary.

“A guardian is already charged to, and I quote, ‘At all times act in ward’s best interest and exercise reasonable care, diligence and prudence,’” a representative from the Colorado Bar Association said.

But Catherine Falk says when that doesn’t happen the only recourse is expensive litigation.

“The incapacitated person, the person the law intends to protect, very often ends up dying alone,” Catherine Falk said.

The bill passed unanimously out its first committee Wednesday but it still has a long way to go before becoming law. Catherine Falk is fighting for similar legislation in nine other states.

Peter Falk’s Daughter Pushing for Change in Guardianship Law

Peter Falk’s Daughter pushing for change in Guardianship law

Senate & Jurisprudence Hearing SB 6235 Washington

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Senate & Jurisprudence SB 6235

Reel Talk with Catherine Falk

http://www.wntn.com/mp3/2016-01-16%20%3E%20REEL%20TALK%20with%20the%20Hollywood%20Kid%20talks%20with%20Catherine%20Falk%20about%20the%20Peter%20Falk%20Bill.mp3

Peter Falk: Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

Catherine Falk at Trevor’s Happy Hour



http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/73535400

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The Falk Family: Peter & Alyce Falk with Daughters, Jackie & Catherine

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Rick Segall and Catherine Falk – 15887

http://www.garygarver.com/joanquinn.html

Catherine Falk interviewed by Joan Quinn discussing the Petal Falk Bill