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Chair Landeweher & Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

As cosponsor, I'm writing in support of SB131, brought to you on behalf of a Kansas doctor who often works as a team sports doctor. Quite simply, this bill gives the team doctors the ability to accompany sports teams traveling into Kansas without obtaining a license to practice medicine for a short term, when that care is focused on the team members and for the sport event itself. As specialists focused on athletic medicine, American Medical Society of Sports Medicine has brought this to our attention. They have in depth knowledge of policies, licensure and malpractice around elite team sports.

The map below that they will undoubtedly speak to tells a compelling story about why we need this legislation. I point to the compelling reasons they give for this type of legislation, namely:

* Having a staff healthcare professional present affords continuity of care who are familiar with the athletes and their medical histories.

* We limit the exemption from licensure to the event and to the non-resident athletes and staff, thus having no effect on Kansas citizens.

* The home state retains authority over the healthcare professional. There is no impact on either state's right to license or discipline its licensees.

* There is no cost to the Kansas.

*As of this writing, the states without these exemption provisions are:

- Hawaii
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- Oklahoma



While there is a licensure compact among a finite number of states that allow application and temporary licensure agreements, this can be a time intensive process and does not cover all states. Professional teams come into my district with Sporting KC and others. We have these elite teams competing here in Kansas and hopefully more will be here in the future. We should support a fix when we are clearly the exception in this situation.

Committee I urge you to strongly consider passing this out. If it needs to be worked to overcome any objections, I understand that and I am willing to broker those agreements. That said, we should make a concerted effort to remedy this situation. Thank you for your consideration!

State Senator Jeff Pittman
Leavenworth KS