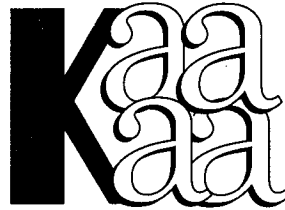


KANSAS
AREA AGENCIES
ON AGING
ASSOCIATION



Meeting the Needs of Older Kansans

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**House Aging & Long-Term Care Committee
Testimony on the Transfer of Adult Protective Services
HB 2108**

**Craig Kaberline, Executive Director
February 10, 2011**

The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A) represents the 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Kansas, who collectively serve all 105 counties of Kansas. In Kansas, Area Agencies on Aging are the "single points of entry," that coordinate the delivery of publicly funded community-based services that seniors and their caregivers need. The Area Agency on Aging system is funded by federal, state and local resources, and administered locally. Service delivery decisions are made at the community level—often in the homes of the seniors who need those services. The Area Agencies on Aging carry out their federal mandate as "the Leader" on aging issues at the local level. The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association works to improve services and supports for all older Kansans and their caregivers.

Whether you are an older Kansan or a caregiver concerned about the well-being and independence of an older adult, Area Agencies on Aging are ready to help. Area Agencies on Aging in communities across the state, plan, coordinate and offer services that help older adults remain in their home - if that is their preference. Services such as home delivered meals and a range of in-home services make independent living a viable option. Area Agencies on Aging make a range of options available so that seniors choose the services and living arrangement that best suits them.

The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association appreciates the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2108 – Transfer of Adult Protective Services to the Office of the Attorney General.

K4A is cautiously supporting this legislation. K4A is cautious because adult protective services must be appropriately funded regardless of which agency it resides in. Historically adult protective services have not been funded at the federal level and only marginally funded at the state level.

K4A believes there are benefits to this transfer. We believe it would be positive to have human services and law enforcement housed together with the Attorney General's Office. The attorney general's office already has responsibility to investigate abuse cases in nursing homes that involve Medicaid recipients. Another potential benefit of the transfer is having adult protective services tied to those with criminal investigative experience, especially at a time when our aging population is growing and we are seeing more and more cases of financial abuse/exploitation.

The transfer of adult protective services to the Attorney General's Office could result in positive outcomes for citizens of Kansas if done correctly.

The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association asks for your support of HB 2108.

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DATE: 2/10/11

ATTACHMENT # 4