



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CARING FOR KANSANS**

To: House Health and Human Services
 From: Deborah S. Clements, MD, FAAFP, President
 Date: Jan. 23, 2012
 Subject: HB 2159; concerning physical therapists

Chairman Landwehr and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to appear. My name is Deborah Clements, and I am the president of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). Our organization has over 1,580 members across the state, of which more than 980 are practicing physicians, 155 are resident-physician members, and the others are medical students and retired members. The roots of family medicine go back to the historical generalist tradition. The specialty is three dimensional, combining knowledge and skill with a unique process. The patient-physician relationship in the context of the family is central to this process and distinguishes family medicine from other specialties.

I am here today to explain our opposition to HB 2159, which amends the licensing statute for physical therapists. The bill allows Physical Therapists to initiate treatment on individuals without a physician referral. Under current law, PTs may only initiate treatment under certain limited conditions, by a physician or certain other health care providers.

One of our major initiatives and that of the state of Kansas as well, is the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) which involves primary care-based redesign of a practice to emphasize team-based care and coordination of patient-centered care across the health care spectrum. It has been shown to provide higher quality care at lower cost and we have a pilot in operation in eight practices at this time.

While direct access to physical therapy may sound like it would increase patient access, our concern is that it would lead to fragmentation of care and lack of coordination. For these reasons we oppose HB 2159 and urge you to oppose its passage. Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer questions.

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