



Dennis Allin, M.D., Chair
Steven Sutton, Executive Director

**Board of
Emergency Medical Services**

Sam Brownback, Governor

Written Testimony

Date: March 13, 2013

To: The Honorable Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Dr. Sabina Braithwaite, Chair, Medical Advisory Council

RE: HB 2183, Communicable Disease Testing and Disclosure of Information

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services for HB 2183. My name is Dr. Sabina Braithwaite, and I am the Chair of the Medical Advisory Council for the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS).

The Medical Advisory Council of the Board of EMS voted at its January 22, 2013 meeting to support the legislative efforts toward modifying the existing infectious disease legislation (KSA 65-6001 et seq). The proposed legislation addresses gaps in our current ability to determine exposure, facilitate testing, and efficiently manage any communicable disease exposure to emergency services personnel as a part of the continuum of health care providers.

We are supportive of the idea of creating a statutory framework with specific implementation language in regulation to allow KDHE to most seamlessly and efficiently incorporate the most up-to-date medical testing and treatment recommendations related to communicable disease into our approach to occupational exposures of all types.

The EMS physicians on the Medical Advisory Council of the Board of EMS stand ready to provide whatever subject matter expertise and resources that would be helpful to KDHE during the development of these regulations.