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Testimony

Date: March 14, 2013

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

From: David Johnston, President

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

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is the professional association in Kansas representing the EMT's and Paramedics throughout the state.

I am writing to express our support for the emergency services personnel communicable disease exposure notification legislation. This legislation will help to clarify the process which should occur between the emergency services personnel and the hospital when a significant exposure to patient blood or body fluids may occur. If emergency services personnel receive an exposure to their mouth, nose, eyes or open wounds of the blood or body fluids from a patient, the serious potential of transference of a communicable disease occurs. Properly dealing with these situations is the central issue of this legislation.

Information is the essential key to protecting emergency personnel from work related communicable disease exposure. This legislation outlines processes to allow access to that essential information in a timely manner.

KEMSA asks for your unanimous support of the bill to protect the men and women of Kansas EMS.

Respectfully,

Dave Johnston

President, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association