

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Chairwoman Pilcher-Cook and Committee Members  
March 20, 2013

Opponent of SB 236

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

I am Cindy Luxem, CEO for Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We have over 200 homes across Kansas as members of KHCA, caring for over 20,000 frail elderly on any given day. Our membership is made up of nursing homes, nursing homes for mental health, assisted living, home plus, home and community based services and other senior based housing programs. Long term care providers have experienced many challenges in the recent years. Every day this dedicated workforce is asked to provide outstanding care for some of our most vulnerable citizens and they are the most resilient, devoted caregivers across Kansas.

SB 236 is an interesting concept. Providers work hard to make sure the wishes of the elder and their family are known and respected through Advanced Directives and advance care planning. We believe this is an invasive scrutiny after the death and possibly an invasion of privacy. The potential for possible autopsies goes against the individual wishes of many of our residents. Not sure would be picking up the cost of these procedures after the reported death.

I would not have wanted an autopsy on my mom or dad after their deaths.

If this is truly an issue of importance to this committee then I would like to suggest the following amendments. The coroner would report their findings to KDADS and then a report would be made to this legislature to analyze what the findings are... We are not sure of purpose of this legislation so maybe a report might be in order to see the results of the new reporting requirements and whether to keep it in place.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.