



Kansas Hearing Society, Inc.

Irene Wagner, Au.D., CCC – A Executive Director of KHS
2812 E. Menlo, Wichita, KS 67211
(316)209-6697

**Testimony in Opposition of: HB 2195
House Health and Human Services Committee**

My name is Irene Wagner, and I am a licensed audiologist and licensed hearing aid dispenser. I am the mother of a daughter who is hearing impaired. I also serve as the Executive Director for the Kansas Hearing Society, Inc.

I have had the privilege of working as an audiologist for 42 years. I began as a school audiologist and dispensing hearing aids was not permitted in 1975. My daughter's first hearing aids were purchased from a hearing instrument specialist. In 1978 the American Speech, Language & Hearing Association approved audiologists to dispense hearing aids in not-for-profit settings.

I point this out, because it is important to understand that hearing instrument specialists have always been a consumer based business.

The Kansas hearing instrument specialists' regulations were established in 1968. Kansas did not allow for audiologists to dispense hearing aids till 1992.

During the past 49 years the Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners has done an exemplary job of administering written and practical examinations and handled consumer complaints in an extremely efficient and professional manner for hearing instrument specialists and for the past 25 years for those audiologist who also desired to hold a dispensing license.

I am opposed to changing something that is working well for our Kansas consumers. Moving KBHAE under KDADS will not be more efficient and importantly, will not save the Kansas Government money.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this important matter for all Kansas consumers with hearing loss.

Respectfully,

Irene Wagner, Au.D., CCC – A

Irene Wagner, Au.D., CCC– A
Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology
Executive Director of the Kansas Hearing Society, Inc.