

## **Testimony in Support of HB 2234**

### Senate Committee on Judiciary

Gary Mason  
Deputy Secretary for Environment  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

March 16, 2017

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am pleased to offer testimony in support of HB 2234 as it relates to the Office of Laboratory Services (Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories, KHEL) within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

The KHEL performs both environmental and health analytical testing for several different customers in the state. The customers submitting public health specimens include county health departments, universities, other state agencies and hospitals. These specimens may be submitted as part of an outbreak investigation or as part of routine public health activities. Some of the testing performed by the KHEL is for the detection of various infectious diseases.

The proposed amendments to K.S.A. 65-6009 as described in HB 2234 are not expected to significantly alter the volume of infectious disease testing routinely requested of the KHEL and therefore should have minimal impact on the ability of the KHEL to perform the infectious disease testing required by these amendments.

In addition, the requirement within these amendments for testing to occur within 48 hours is understood to mean that the tests must be ordered and specimens collected within 48 hours, allowing the KHEL to perform the actual determinative tests within a regular testing schedule.

Therefore, it is the conclusion of KDHE that there is minimal fiscal or operational impact to the passing of HB 2234.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.