



To: Chairman Wilborn, and Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Rachel Monger, Vice President of Government Affairs
Date: March 7, 2018

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2458

Thank you, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee. I am Rachel Monger, Vice President of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas. We have 160 members across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living and residential health care residences, homes plus, low income housing, home health agencies, home and community based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 elders each day.

LeadingAge Kansas wholeheartedly supports HB 2458, and its amendments to the Mistreatment of a Dependent Adult and Mistreatment of an Elder Person statutes to strengthen prosecution of elder financial abuse.

Victims of abuse are often left destitute, in mental and emotional anguish, and in increased jeopardy because they cannot access necessary services to maintain their health and safety. Allowing elders to be put in such a situation is intolerable.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 25% of Kansas will be over the age of 60 by the year 2030. As the population of older Kansans expands, so will the number of abuse cases. We must act now to stem the tide of abuse, and make clear to all that elder abuse in all of its forms is a very serious crime in Kansas.