



## Kansas Home Care Association

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TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Jane Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Home Care Association

### ***SB#154 — Amendments to home health agency licensure.***

***February 16, 2017***

On behalf of the Kansas Home Care Association, I appreciate this opportunity to submit this written testimony in favor of Senate Bill #154 that will amend the home health agency licensure regulations for the State of Kansas.

Kansas Home Care Association is the state-wide trade association, representing home care and hospice providers. Our agencies provide skilled nursing, therapy and aide services to patients in their home.

As the representative trade association, we support licensure for agencies holding themselves to be home care agencies. We frequently find the general public does not fully understand the difference between an agency that provides skilled medical care and is regulated by the state, and a business that provides non-medical home care services. While most of our non-medical colleagues provide the utmost care with patients, there are those businesses that do not always follow guidelines set forth by the state regarding issues such as medication management. In these situations, not only may the patients and their families be at risk for harm, but the provider may suffer harm as well. We believe the proposed change to the regulations will provide the citizens of Kansas more guidance in selecting the appropriate level of care for themselves and their loved ones, so that businesses that are identified as agencies will provide a level of care that meets the standards of service identified by the State of Kansas. These rules should ensure that agencies follow regulations pertaining to delivery of services, that there is a mechanism for the general public to insure that rules are enforced, that consumer complaints are addressed, and that the safety and welfare of clients is protected.

Whether skilled medical providers or those providing non-skilled care that allow a patient to stay in their home, we believe all care providers have the same goal in mind, which is to provide a patient with a way to stay in their home as long as possible, in the most cost-effective and caring way possible. We believe this update to the regulations will help everyone towards that goal.

Thank you for your time today.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kelly, Executive Director  
Kansas Home Care Association