



Testimony in Support of HB 2674
Senate Public Health and Welfare
March 19, 2018

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bruce Witt and I am President of the Kansas Metro Business and Healthcare Coalition (KMBHC). We are a group of hospitals, healthcare providers, businesses leaders and trade groups focused on ensuring the ongoing delivery of high quality, state of the art healthcare in the state's urban areas.

We support HB 2674 because many of our members use telemedicine to extend their services and add value to rural Kansas. We understand healthcare is not a one size fits all proposition, especially in a State as broad and diverse as ours. Telemedicine is currently offering rural Kansans more medical solutions than ever before and this bill will further encourage telehealth throughout Kansas.

Additionally, telemedicine can offer Kansan's a healthcare delivery mechanism similar to that in 32 other states. For example, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City, a Missouri licensed insurance company, offers their Missouri customers a telehealth solution called AmWell. They can schedule an appointment and see their doctor from their table or smartphone.

We are in strong favor of more coverage parity for telemedicine delivery. Both urban and rural business and community leaders understand that healthcare companies and hospitals employ thousands of people and are major economic drivers in the areas they serve. Employers understand that without access to critical care and innovative healthcare systems retaining employees and recruitment to those areas is nearly impossible.

We support HB 2674 because it supports a critical delivery mechanism for innovative health services all across Kansas.