



1100 SW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, Kansas 66604-1761
(785) 267-6003 Phone
(785) 267-0833 Fax
khca.org
khca@khca.org



House Committee on Children and Seniors
Chairwoman Concannon and Committee Members
February 13, 2019

House Bill 2149 – Neutral—Written Only

Madam Chairman and Committee Members. I am Cindy Luxem, President/CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade Association representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing home, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health communities across the state. We are the oldest nursing home trade association in Kansas and have over 265 member communities. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day.

Thank you for allowing us to weigh in on HB 2149 relating to timely determination of eligibility for Kansas medical assistance program. We have come before this committee and many others to share the desperately long wait times our members have had with Medicaid eligibility program. We've shared testimony about the hundreds of thousands of dollars that providers were left holding the note on for months and even years. In many cases, payment never came through and thousands of dollars have been written off by Kansas nursing home providers.

Why then, are we testifying neutral to HB 2149?

The simple truth is that nursing facilities are not the only providers who are affected by the backlog and untimely determinations. Assisted living communities, hospitals, clinics, home health care agencies and more have all been left holding the bag. Additionally, Kansas consumers have suffered and continue to suffer through this unnecessary and truly unlawfully excessive determination wait times. HB 2149 is a great start to incentivizing the Medicaid service contractor (currently Maximus) to perform their contracted services in a timely manner, however, this bill simply does not go far enough to protect the interest of all providers and consumers in Kansas. It's time to do the right thing for everyone.

Cindy Luxem