



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 193  
House Health and Human Services  
March 13, 2019**

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of Health and Human Services, my name is Denise Cyzman, CEO of Community Care Network of Kansas (formerly the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU)). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of SB 193 – providing reciprocity for licensed social workers.

Community Care Network of Kansas (Community Care) represents 37 community care clinics, all providing services regardless of the patient’s ability to pay. Community Care and its members believe Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable, and quality health care. In 2018, community care clinics served more than 301,000 patients during almost 900,000 visits.<sup>1</sup>

Community care clinics are becoming recognized as part of the solution to the state’s mental health crisis through the integration of primary care and behavioral health services (mental health and substance abuse). Twenty-six community care clinics provide behavioral health services. In 2017, the clinics provided behavioral health services to 16,000 patients through almost 61,000 visits; a substantial growth in five years from 5,900 patients and 26,000 visits. However, it is difficult keeping up with workforce needs to serve the increasing number of patients.

Recruiting licensed social workers is often a challenge for community care clinics, especially in rural areas. Many clinics are near the border and have to compete for practitioners with Missouri and Oklahoma. Allowing licensed providers from other states to practice in Kansas would help to alleviate this problem and bring more qualified individuals into our state, helping clinics to grow and expand their care to reach even more Kansans.

We support SB 193, and thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data for CY 2018 reported to Community Care Network of Kansas Quality Reporting System, 2019.