



March 12, 2020

Testimony by Karren Weichert, President/CEO
Midland Care PACE
Topeka, KS 66606

**Representative Steve Johnson
House Tax Committee**

Chairperson and Committee Members --

Midland Care is a not-for profit health care provider caring for patients in Eastern Kansas for over 40 years. During the past four decades:

We have cared for over 40,000 dying people in our hospice program

Provided more than 100,000 grieving individuals counseling and support groups

Cared for more than 25,000 people in our adult day care, Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and residential programs

Provided home health and home support to more than 10,000 people and

Provided over 6 million meals to homebound seniors.

Because of the focus of our programs and our commitment to the disenfranchised and low income individuals, our main payer sources are Medicare and Medicaid, neither of which covers all the cost of care. There are many people each year who have no resources to pay, resulting in a significant amount of free care.

Our commitment is to provide care regardless of an inability to pay which means we have to aggressively fund raise each year.

Every year we have 2 large fundraisers.

One is a walkathon around our grounds called the Celebration Walk where we remember and celebrate the lives of those who have been cared for by us and are being missed by those who loved them. We raise about \$125,000 from this event.

The second is Sumptuous Evening, a gala event to raise money for the Meals on Wheels program (which is funded entirely on donations and grants). This event raises about \$150,000 each year.

These two events together raise approximately \$275,000.

Even though we are a 501c3, recognized by the federal government as a charitable business, based on the nature of our work caring for the dying and frail seniors, we have been required by the state of Kansas to pay sales tax since we were incorporated in 1978.

Today, because of the growth of our program in response to community need, we pay approximately \$300,000 a year in sales tax. It takes funds from our two large fundraisers and about 1,250 twenty dollar memorial donations to pay for sales tax each year.

Please, I implore you, as you consider HB2727, please also consider an amendment to add a sales tax exemption for Midland Care Connection, a not for profit, integrated community health provider serving eastern Kansas for more than 4 decades. If this exemption were added we could provide 2,000 additional days of hospice care; 4,615 days of adult day care; 55,000 meals to homebound seniors; 12,000 medical transports or 5 years of care to a PACE participant.

Thank you.