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Senate Education Committee
Neutral testimony: SB 381 (written comments only)
Presented by: Dr. Sheryl Beard, President
February 20, 2020

Madam Chair and members of the Committee:

Thank you for letting the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) offer comments on SB 381, authorizing medical student and residency loan assistance to encourage the practice of obstetrics and gynecology in medically underserved areas of the state.

As you are likely aware, physicians desiring to specialize in primary care in underserved areas of the state have for many years had access to the Medical Student Loan (Scholarship) Program. This program has been a strong success and Kansas is a model to other rural states, desiring to encourage family medicine physicians to practice in underserved areas.

Those practicing family medicine specialize in providing health care to patients throughout their lifespan and in all their health circumstances. They serve as primary care specialists and are, therefore, especially valuable across all regions of Kansas.

The Academy supports greater access to quality healthcare and, therefore, is supportive of efforts to provide needed physician care to more areas of Kansas. **Our only concern with this legislation is that of ensuring the new scholarship program, once created, is appropriately funded. KAFP wants to ensure that all primary care medicine scholarship slots remain dedicated to those desiring to practice family medicine in the underserved areas of Kansas.**

We thank this committee for its efforts to create greater access to needed healthcare all across this great state.

