



February 3, 2021

To: House Committee on Children and Seniors

From: Kathleen Taylor, Kansas Bankers Association

Re: HB 2151 – Creating Kansas Elder and Dependent Adult Multidisciplinary Teams

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony before the Committee today on behalf of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA) and in support of HB 2151, which would create a statewide Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Multidisciplinary Team. The KBA was organized in 1887 and our membership includes 98% of the banks and savings & loans headquartered in Kansas. Our membership also includes 19 out-of-state commercial banks operating in Kansas. The Kansas banking industry employs more than 14,700 Kansans that provide financial services across the state. Our organizational mission statement is:

“Together we support our member banks and bankers with leadership, advocacy and education to benefit the communities and customers they serve.”

As a member of the Attorney General’s Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Council, I have been involved in the discussions that led to the drafting of this bill. Through discussions with Council members, it became clear that the Kansas statutes relating to the sharing of information between law enforcement, social service agencies and members of the public who are mandatory reporters of suspected elder and dependent adult abuse needed additional support. We learned that there are several counties that have formed their own multidisciplinary teams to allow the sharing of critical information to aid in the investigations of suspected abuse with great success.

Thus, the idea of a statewide network of multidisciplinary teams was born. The banking industry is many times, in the best position to help with investigations of suspected financial exploitation and as mandatory reporters of suspected abuse, we have many bankers who look forward to being a part of one of these teams.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter. We respectfully request that when the Committee considers action on HB 2151, it act favorably on it.