



**Kansas Hospital**  
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Committee on Taxation

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: February 7, 2022

RE: House Bill 2558

On behalf of the members of the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2558 related to providing a subtraction modification in income taxation for amounts contributed to the board of pharmacy as a donation, gift or bequest supporting the prescription monitoring program, K-TRACS.

While KHA supports this legislation that will provide for donations, gifts or bequests to be contributed to the state board of pharmacy for furthering any phase of the prescription monitoring program, we believe that the K-TRACS program should be funded through the state general fund in addition to whatever grant funds or donations the program is able to obtain as it is an essential public health tool that ensures the appropriate use of controlled substances and other drugs of concern. The ability to appropriately monitor prescription drug use and potential drug abuse saves the state funds in other areas, so we believe this should be an area of reinvestment in the K-TRACS System.

Kansas remains a national leader in the creation of a statewide prescription monitoring program that was signed into law in 2008. The program was implemented in 2010 after grant funding became available. The program has been an integral tool, providing prescribers and dispensers of controlled substances and other drugs of concern with data regarding patients who may be over-utilizing these medications or drug-seeking from multiple providers. With the integration of K-TRACS into electronic health records, a significant increase in utilization of the K-TRACS program has occurred. However, sustained, state general fund or grant funds should be used to support this critically important tool in the fight against drug abuse and to improve patient safety.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.