



To: Senator Robert Olson, Chair and Members, Senate Commerce Committee
From: Rachel Monger, Vice President of Government Affairs, LeadingAge Kansas

Date: February 25, 2021

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 213

LeadingAge Kansas is the state association for not-for-profit and faith-based aging services. We have 160 member organizations across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living, homes plus, senior housing, low-income housing, home health agencies, home and community-based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 older Kansans each day and employ more than 20,000 people across the state.

We are writing in opposition to SB 213 because we do not want any avenues closed to long term care when it comes to battling COVID-19 virus infections. We are not aware of any LeadingAge Kansas members who have mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for their staff, and very few of our providers ever mandate flu vaccinations. However, we all know the devastation COVID-19 has wrought upon long term care over the last year. Even when the pandemic is declared over in our communities, the COVID-19 virus itself will not be disappear. There is still much we do not know about the virus, including the new variants that will continue to develop. Adult care homes will continue to fight COVID-19 virus spread in our facilities and we ask that the legislature not remove any tools from our toolbox when it comes to defeating this deadly virus for our residents.

We respectfully request that you vote No on Senate Bill 213.