



**Testimony to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
In Support with Recommendation of an Amendment on HB 2151
March 23, 2021**

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee, as the Director of k4ad, I represent the network of eleven Area Agencies on Aging covering all 105 Kansas counties. In 1973, the Older Americans Act created the system of Area Agencies on Aging at the community level. As “boots on the ground,” AAAs respond to unique community needs with the provision of programs and services, including services to prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons.

I am testifying in support of HB 2151, although requesting two amendments related to the following:

- 1) Composition of multidisciplinary teams
- 2) Identifying opportunities within local jurisdictions to improve policies and procedures in the notification of and response to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elder or dependent adults, within the limits of local resources.

The Older Americans Act, Title III requires AAAs to serve as local entities that oversee a comprehensive and coordinated service system for the delivery of social, nutrition, and community-based long-term services and supports to older individuals. This includes the requirement to provide services that prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons. Knowledge and expertise substantially increase when AAAs are active members of committees, commissions, task forces, and coalitions. Further, it makes sense to include the “single point of entry” for the State of Kansas in the composition of multidisciplinary teams.

Area Agencies on Aging are key partners in identifying needed resources to support the health, safety, and welfare of older adults and caregivers. In many instances, policies and procedures have denied access to vital supports and services. When policies and procedures are inconsistent (i.e. within the limits of local resources), they are enforced unevenly and cause confusion. We believe the policies and procedures with notification should be consistent statewide to ensure full due process.

For these reasons, we believe HB 2151 should be amended as recommended.

Thank you,
Leslie Anderson
Executive Director