

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PHYSICIANS

PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Written Testimony
Senate Bill 387
February 7, 2022

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

My name is Dr. Elizabeth Muenks and I am writing in support of SB 387. This bill would require psychologists licensed in Kansas to have continuing education related to diversity, equity and inclusion. Many other states including Arizona, Connecticut, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas require psychologists to take CEUS focused on diversity and cultural competency. I believe Kansas should join this list to demonstrate our that our state and its licensed psychologists are committed to values related to diversity, whether that be diversity in religious beliefs, ability, culture, age, ethnicity, gender, SES or any other ways in which unique experiences impact our lives.

As a psychologist dedicated to serving and meeting the mental health needs of Kansans who represent many identifies, backgrounds and experiences, I believe it is critical that this education remain a constant in our professional lives. This education requirement will help ensure that Kansas psychologists are equipped and able to provide continued excellent care with a cultural humility lens that is needed for all. As we know, there are existing mental and physical health disparities that impact Kansans belonging to historically marginalized groups. To provide the best, caring, considerate and well-rounded mental health care to these groups and all Kansans, maintaining our education in all areas, especially diversity, is a necessity.

Thank you for your careful consideration,



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