

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
800 SW Jackson, Lower Level-Suite A
Topeka, KS 66612



phone: 785-296-7413
fax: 785-368-7102
Email: KSBHA_healingarts@ks.gov
www.ksbha.org

Susan Gile, Acting Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

December 13, 2022

Written Testimony in Support of the State Employee and Board Member Compensation Committee Considering Board Member Compensation

Dear Chair and Honorable Committee Members:

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (“Board”) submits this testimony to assist legislators in evaluating Board Member compensation. I am Susan Gile, Acting Executive Director of the Board. The Board is the executive body tasked with licensing and regulating 16 healthcare professions in Kansas. See K.S.A. 65-2801. The Board is composed of 15 members, 12 of whom are licensed healthcare professionals from various professions, including eight licensed physicians, three chiropractors, one podiatrist, and three public members.

The Board of Healing Arts is a working Board. The Board meets for six scheduled meetings per year (and special meetings when needed). For each meeting, the Board members receive a packet of information to be reviewed in preparation for the meeting. This packet includes substantive information related to topics of the agency, professional governance, and materials related to the cases before the Board for disciplinary or technical licensure issues. It is common for the packets to be thousands of pages and require a significant amount of time to review. Additionally, the cases before the Board typically involve complex issues requiring substantial thought and analysis.

To ask medical professionals to serve on our board for only \$35.00 per day is antiquated and generally unreasonable. Essentially, our Board members serve as volunteers at this compensation rate. In addition to such little compensation, the board members are also not eligible for subsistence reimbursement, and they generally pay for their own lunch. Considering our Board members are also healthcare professionals or are otherwise employed and are not working or seeing patients on Board meeting days, it arguably costs our Board members to serve on Board meeting days.

Other state medical boards compensate at varying rates of pay. To my knowledge, some compensate for up to \$300.00 per day. I support this committee reviewing and considering increasing Board Member compensation. The work they do is extremely important and should be compensated at a higher level. It is important the Governor’s Office continue to be able to find qualified candidates to fill these important positions. Higher compensation will certainly assist with this.

I welcome any comments, questions, or further dialogue with members of the committee. Please feel free to contact me at (785) 296-3680 or at any time via email at susan.gile@ks.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan Gile
Acting Executive Director

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TTY (HEARING IMPAIRED) 711 OR 1.800.766.3777 VOICE/TTY • E-MAIL: KSBHA_HEALINGARTS@KS.GOV