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**Testimony re: HB 2764, Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder
House Insurance Committee
Presented by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of the
Mental Health Credentialing Coalition
March 12, 2012**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Mental Health Credentialing Coalition (MHCC). The MHCC is comprised of the members of the Kansas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the Kansas Association of Masters in Psychology, and the Kansas Mental Health Counselors Association.

MHCC is neutral on the provisions of HB 2764, but MHCC advocates for equity and consistency in the statutes applicable to providers of mental health services. There are five mental health providers licensed by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board who are authorized to diagnose and treat all mental disorders in independent practice listed in the DSM V-TR. These licensed providers are Psychologists, Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors, and Licensed Clinical Psychotherapists.

Throughout the years, statutes have been written or revised which refer to some, but not all of these BSRB licensed providers, and the MHCC supports amendments to such statutes whenever they are identified, so as to include all such mental health providers who are equally capable of diagnosing and treating mental disorders.

Within HB 2764, New Section 1(a)(2) refers to some, but not all, of the mental health providers licensed by the BSRB to diagnose and treat mental disorders in independent practice, in addition to other practitioners.

I have attached a copy of a balloon amendment which reflects changes to the bill which would include all such BSRB licensed mental health providers.

In this way, these statutes would then reflect all of the mental health providers authorized by law to treat mental disorders, and licensed by the BSRB, without any exceptions, so that any of these providers would be eligible to provide services pursuant to the provisions of HB 2764.

Thank you very much for permitting me to submit written testimony.

HOUSE BILL No. 2764

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-21

1 AN ACT concerning insurance; providing coverage for autism spectrum
2 disorder; amending K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 40-2,103 and 40-19c09 and
3 repealing the existing sections.
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 New Section 1. (a) (1) Any individual or group health insurance
7 policy, medical service plan, contract, hospital service corporation
8 contract, hospital and medical service corporation contract, fraternal
9 benefit society or health maintenance organization which provides
10 coverage for accident and health services and which is delivered, issued
11 for delivery, amended or renewed on or after July 1, 2012, shall provide
12 coverage for the treatment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders in
13 any covered individual whose age is less than 19 years.

14 (2) Such coverage shall be provided in a manner determined in
15 consultation with the autism services provider and the patient. Services
16 provided by an autism services provider under this section shall include
17 applied behavior analysis when required by a licensed physician, licensed
18 psychologist, ~~or~~ licensed specialist clinical social worker but otherwise
19 shall be limited to those services prescribed or ordered by a licensed
20 physician, licensed psychologist, ~~or~~ licensed specialist clinical social
21 worker. Services provided pursuant to this paragraph shall be those
22 services which are or have been recognized by peer reviewed literature as
23 providing medical benefit to the patient based upon the patient's particular
24 autism spectrum disorder.

25 (3) Coverage for benefits for any covered person diagnosed with one
26 or more autism spectrum disorders and whose age is between birth and
27 less than seven years shall not exceed \$36,000 per year.

28 (4) Coverage for benefits for any covered person diagnosed with one
29 or more autism spectrum disorders and whose age is at least seven years
30 and less than 19 years shall not exceed \$27,000 per year.

31 (5) Reimbursement shall be allowed only for services provided by a
32 provider licensed, trained and qualified to provide such services or by an
33 autism specialist or an intensive individual service provider as such terms
34 are defined by the department of social and rehabilitation services Kansas
35 autism waiver.

36 (6) Any insurer or other entity which administers claims for services

, licensed clinical psychotherapist,
licensed clinical marriage and
family therapist, or licensed
clinical professional counselor

, licensed clinical psychotherapist,
licensed clinical marriage and
family therapist, or licensed
clinical professional counselor