



To: Rep. Connie O'Brien, Chair, and Members, House Children and Seniors Committee
From: Debra H. Zehr, President/CEO
Date: January 22, 2013

A Snapshot of LeadingAge Kansas

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

LeadingAge Kansas is a voluntary association that represents 160 not-for-profit faith-based, local government, veterans, fraternal and other community 501(C)(3) aging service organizations throughout the state. The vast majority are "stand-alone" organizations, not part of large systems or chains. Our members include nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living residences, low income housing, PACE, community-based service providers and hospital long-term care units. Together our members serve well over 20,000 older Kansans and employ approximately the same number of individuals to provide care and services.

LeadingAge Kansas provides advocacy services, education and shared learning, information, and other tools and resources for members to assist them to provide the services people need, when they need them, in a place they call home, and quality people can trust. In addition, we are a knowledge resource for aging Kansans and those who care for and about them.

Our six strategic priorities include:

1. Create the next generation of aging services
2. Improve aging services financial sustainability
3. Grow leaders in aging services
4. Grow and improve our workforce
5. Advance regulatory reform and improve compliance
6. Promote and protect the not-for-profit difference

Our primary legislative priorities this year include:

1. Sustain funding for long term supports and services for frail older Kansans
2. Address fiduciary abuse of older Kansans by Durable Powers of Attorney
3. Require criminal record checks on Nurse Aide Trainees

LeadingAge Kansas and its members have a wealth of knowledge and experience on aging issues and services. As you deliberate on the many important issues you will face this Session, we invite you to call on us as a trusted resource for information to assist you in responding to constituent concerns and in policy-making. Rachel Monger is our Director of Government Affairs and Bill Brady and John Peterson of Capitol Strategies are our long-time contract lobbyists. We look forward to partnering with you in 2013 on behalf of older Kansans.

Not-For-Profit Aging Services...there is a difference

217 SE 8th Avenue | Topeka, KS 66603-3906

P 785.233-7443 | F 785.233-9471 | LeadingAgeKansas.org