



## **Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals**

**800 SW Jackson, Suite 1100  
Topeka, KS 66603  
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February 10, 2016

### **Testimony In Support of House Bill 2571**

#### **House Committee on Health and Human Services**

Chairman Hawkins, and Members of the Committee,

I am Dulcinea Rakestraw, Vice President of Treatment Services for Preferred Family Healthcare and an Executive Committee member of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP), the state's largest trade association devoted solely to substance use disorder treatment providers and prevention programs from across Kansas. I am appearing today to provide comments on behalf of my company and KAAP regarding the issues related to substance abuse treatment license requirements in House Bill 24571.

As the state's only organization representing substance abuse treatment providers, we have reviewed legislation that provides community mental health centers who have a recognized national accreditation to use it to satisfy state requirements. Some mental health centers are members of our association and we share their desire to enhance the value and efficiency of national accreditation.

As an employee of an agency that is accredited, I can share some of the reasons why accreditation is an important component of a high quality service delivery system. Specific benefits that accreditation affords include:

- Assurance to persons seeking services that a provider has demonstrated conformance to internationally accepted standards.
- Improved communication with persons served.
- Person-focused standards that emphasize an integrated and individualized approach to services and outcomes.
- Accountability to funding sources, referral agencies, and the community.
- Management techniques that are efficient, cost-effective, and based on outcomes and consumer satisfaction.
- Evidence to federal, state, provincial, and local governments of commitment to quality of programs and services that receive government funding.
- Guidance for responsible management and professional growth of personnel.
- A tool for marketing programs and services to consumers, referral sources, and third-party funders.
- Support from the accrediting body through consultation, publications, conferences, training opportunities, and newsletters.



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In addition to the benefits to providers and consumers, there are several benefits to the state. Those include: assurance that programs are thoroughly reviewed on a regular basis at all levels from policies, personnel practices, environmental conditions, and clinical services; ability to adapt the requirements for accreditation on an annual basis in accordance with the best practices of the industry; and allowing deemed status will allow for a reduction in state staffing costs associated with KDADS staff completing on-site audits of programs already demonstrating compliance with accreditation.

Additionally, deemed status will encourage providers to seek accreditation that improves public safety by ensuring programs are not simply meeting the minimum standards set out by the state, but demonstrating a higher standard of care.

We support House Bill 2571 for community mental health centers and urge your support for an amendment to provide the same efficiencies, costs savings, and administrative burden relief to the substance abuse treatment providers in your community provided they are nationally accredited.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time

Dulcinea Rakestraw, Chair