

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Julia Lynn  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Commerce  
Kansas Senate  
Kansas State Capitol, Room 445-S  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: American Medical Association **opposition to Senate Bill 167**, which seeks to revert  
Kansas to the fourth edition of the *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*

Dear Chair Lynn:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I write in opposition to Senate Bill (S.B.) 167, which seeks to amend existing Kansas law by requiring the use of the fourth edition of the *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (Guides)*. Two years ago, Kansas considered this issue and determined that it would be in the best interests of Kansas' patients to rely on the latest medical science and data available to accurately rate medical impairment. This is why the AMA supported the legislation to phase-in use of the sixth edition of the *Guides*, which was published in 2007.

Consider that the fourth edition of the *Guides* was published in 1993, and medical technology and science has dramatically improved since then. This has led to better procedures that produce more positive outcomes. For example, a patient who received a knee replacement in 2007 – compared to a patient in 1993 – will more than likely have a faster recovery time and an overall better outcome. To require physicians and other health care professionals to evaluate patients based on outdated science is not in patients' best interests.

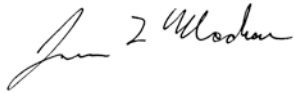
We note that the 2013 legislation included a phase-in period. Much work has been done by key stakeholders in the state to educate physicians and other health care professionals since then. It would be impractical to now reverse course, and doing so may cause additional confusion.

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For these reasons, the AMA opposes S.B. 167, and we urge the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce to not report it to the full Kansas Senate.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at [daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org](mailto:daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim L. Madara".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Kansas Medical Society