



Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals

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February 11, 2015

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 123

Senator Pilcher-Cook, and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. I am Kim Brown, Chair 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 providing written comments on behalf of KAAP regarding the issues related to the repeal of the behavioral health pharmaceutical exemption in current law.

Our KAAP 2015 Legislative Platform includes language approved by the full membership that supports current law and opposed the change proposed in Senate Bill 123. When we treat individuals with substance abuse issues, many individuals have co-occurring mental health issue and specific medications are part of their treatment and recovery. Senate Bill 123 and the complete repeal of current law would have the potential to destabilize the recovery process due to medication issues that could lead to mental health recurrences and threaten successful recovery from both mental illness and substance use disorders.

We welcome a conversation about how the behavioral health medications are used in conjunction with treatment but the total repeal of current law is not the medically wise choice.

We at KAAP are happy to answer any questions or help in anyway we can as it relates to alcohol and drugs issues related to Senate Bill 123.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time

Kim Brown, Chair

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