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**TESTIMONY ON SB 449
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
FEBRUARY 15, 2016**

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as a proponent of SB 449. I am Max Foster, the Executive Director of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB).

As you are aware from my previous testimony to this committee, the BSRB is the licensing board for most of the state's mental health professionals including: licensed psychologists, master level psychologists, clinical psychotherapists, bachelor, master and specialist clinical level social workers, master and clinical level professional counselors, master and clinical level marriage and family therapists, addiction counselors, clinical level addiction counselors, and effective July 1, 2016 – assistant behavioral analysts and behavioral analysts.

SB 449 is legislation which impacts various statutes administered by the BSRB. During the 2015 legislative session, this committee heard testimony on SB 254. SB 254 was sponsored by our agency and the content of the bill affected changes to numerous statutes administered by our agency. During the hearing process this committee heard testimony from stakeholders that were affected by the legislation. As of today SB 254 remains in this committee. Since the 2015 legislative session, the BSRB has had an opportunity to meet with stakeholders who were in opposition to certain provisions of SB 254, and as a result of discussions held at these meetings, SB 449 has been introduced. Therefore, SB 449 is replacement legislation for SB 254.

The following table will illustrate the differences in content between Sb 254 and SB 449.

**Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Comparison between SB 254 and SB 449**

TOPIC	SB 254	SB 449
Licensure by reciprocity ➤ Licensure in 60 of the previous 66 months	Yes	Yes
Reasons to deny, suspend, revoke or censure ➤ Definition of “incompetence” ➤ Substantiation of abuse	Yes	Yes*
Required safety training for social workers ➤ Obtained as a part of a degree requirement	Yes	No*
Masters Addiction Counselor licensing ➤ Eliminate requirement to only practice in KDADS licensed facility ➤ Currently licensed as an Addiction Counselor and has a Masters degree in a related field	Yes No	Yes* Yes
Fees – “shall to may” ➤ Allows agency to eliminate a fee	Yes	Yes
KAPA vs. KOMA ➤ Licensed Psychologists and Social Workers	Yes	Yes
Eliminate DSM reference ➤ To eliminate continuous regulation changes	Yes	No*
Supervisor Training Requirements ➤ Marriage and Family Therapists; Professional Counselors; Social Workers	Yes	Yes
Fingerprinting / background checks ➤ Currently not in statutes	Yes	Yes
Temp License for Psychologists prior to degree conferral (KU) ➤ Upon verification from Dean of Psychology	Yes	Yes
Removal of ceiling for exam fees ➤ Fee paid directly to exam company by licensee	Yes	Yes

* Per input from stakeholders

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members I hope this table effectively clarifies the differences between SB 254 and SB 449. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to stand for questions.