

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Alex Freeman, Management Intern
Date: February 5, 2024
RE: HB 2637 – Expanding eligibility for rural emergency hospital licensure
In support – Written Testimony

Thank you to the Chair and Committee for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

The League of Kansas Municipalities advocates for the retention and support of rural hospitals, recognizing their vital role in providing essential healthcare services to residents of rural communities. In this light, we support measures that facilitate sustainability of rural healthcare facilities in the long-term, as they serve a critical purpose for rural cities across our state.

House Bill 2637, concerning rural emergency hospital licensure, aligns with our goal to retain businesses and their employees and sustain the health and lives of Kansans. By expanding eligibility for rural emergency hospital licensure to facilities that meet certain criteria, the bill aims to bolster healthcare access in rural areas. This is a crucial step in ensuring that residents of rural municipalities have access to emergency medical services when needed.

Furthermore, the provision in the bill allowing rural emergency hospitals to own and operate entities providing ambulance services enhances emergency preparedness and response capabilities in rural communities. This is especially important given the unique challenges rural areas face in accessing timely emergency medical care.

In conclusion, House Bill 2637 represents a positive step towards improving healthcare access and emergency preparedness in rural Kansas. We urge the Committee to support this bill while ensuring that it maintains focus on the needs of rural hospitals and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available to provide further information or answer any questions you may have.

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