

SB-101, Proponent Testimony

Randall Hardy

Former senator and Speaker for the Kansas Silver-Haired Legislature

My name is Randall Hardy, former state senator and Speaker of the Kansas Silver-Haired Legislature. SB-101 is a bill that would benefit many older Kansans. Our 11 Area Agencies on Aging provide valuable services to older seniors, including helping older adults remain safely in their homes and communities as long as possible, and providing a healthy and hot meal daily for seniors.

AAAs promote person directed care; serve as a community planning agency to improve community services to seniors; act as an advocate for seniors, make services available that help seniors remain in the community and avoid unnecessary or premature moves from their homes; develop coalitions and networks of support for seniors and their caregivers to avoid or reduce the need for publicly funded services; coordinate services in the geographic area and manage service its area effectively and efficiently; help seniors live happier and more active lives through prevention and intervention. In other words, AAAs are an invaluable service to thousands of senior Kansans.

Our area agencies on aging, whether an arm of county government or as nonprofits, provide valuable services for seniors on very limited budgets. Every dollar provided to a AAA is precious. Having the ability of tax-exempt status, more of those precious dollars could be channeled to helping Kansas seniors. My hope is that you will appreciate the valuable services offered by our agencies on aging and will allow this bill to the Senate floor. I appreciate your support for this bill.