

RE: KABC testimony for House Health and Human Services

**Proponent Testimony- Senate Bill 88 (Written only)**

Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of long-term care for older adults, regardless of where they reside.

As Executive Director of KABC, I respectfully **request you to pass Senate Bill 88 clean without amendments:**

Training for Long-Term Care Ombudsman staff and volunteers is essential for effective advocacy. The Initial Certification Training Curriculum follows federal standards, requiring at least 36 hours of training, including independent study, fieldwork, and classroom instruction. Continuing education requirements mandate 18 hours annually.

There have been claims in previous testimony that the Administration for Community Living, (ACL) already requires this training. However, ACL's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Training Standards only mandate a broad introduction to health issues like Alzheimer's, without specifying topics or details. The extent and quality of training remain undefined.

Ensuring this training remains a statutory requirement will serve to reinforce its importance. Ombudsmen play a vital role in protecting residents' rights, ensuring their voices are heard, and supporting decision-making, including those with dementia.

**KABC supports SB88 as originally drafted and further advocates for dementia care training to be mandatory for all long-term care facility staff in Kansas, both initially and as part of ongoing education.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

*Daniel Goodman*

Daniel Goodman  
Executive Director, Kansas Advocates for Better Care