



**Written Opposition Testimony on SB 29
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing on Friday, March 7, 2025**

March 5, 2025

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB 29, which would remove the ability of local boards of health and local health officers to restrict mass gatherings. The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is a professional organization that represents more than 800 public health practitioners, healthcare providers, researchers, advocates, and other professionals working together to build a healthier Kansas.

SB 29 would undermine the ability of public health officers to use crucial, evidence-based strategies to limit the spread of infectious diseases in their communities. Large public gatherings are particularly problematic because they provide multiple, repeated opportunities for exposure to these diseases during an outbreak. Mass gatherings represent one of the fastest and easiest ways for infectious diseases to spread by providing numerous opportunities for repeated exposure. We must retain the ability to use every tool at our disposal to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases and keep Kansans safe. Removing the authority of local health officers to effectively utilize their expertise and prevent the spread of infectious disease puts the health and safety of Kansans at risk.

As such, KPHA supports the current authority of the local boards of health and local health officers to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases and protect the health of their communities. We encourage the Committee to vote NO on the passage of SB 29.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sanna Schneeberger, Executive Director
Kansas Public Health Association