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**Committee Testimony in Support of KDHE Budget Enhancement**  
**Presented by Jeron Ravin, President/CEO of Swope Health**  
**Date: March 4, 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony related to the proposed budget enhancement for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) on behalf of Swope Health.

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Swope Health, I write to you on behalf of approximately 15,000 patients served in Swope Health locations in Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties.

As a community health center, Swope Health has been a cornerstone of healthcare in Kansas communities since its founding in 1969. We are one of the largest and longest-serving safety-net providers in the region, accredited by The Joint Commission, CARF, NCQA, and HRSA. Our mission is to provide high-quality, comprehensive healthcare services to all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay.

Like the other twenty-four (24) community health centers across the state, Swope Health's patients represent the working poor, uninsured, underinsured, and often medically complex, members of our community. While this alone is challenging, more recently it has been exacerbated by supply cost increases, wage pressures, and workforce shortages still lingering from COVID-19. Despite this, this is our mission. However, sound, and supportive policy has helped us deliver care for over 50 years.

**Need for Budget Enhancement:**

The proposed budget enhancement is essential for several reasons:

1. **Solving Workforce Needs:** Easing scope of practice and licensure red tape can help us identify needed professionals and fill needed roles faster.
2. **Data Driven Decision Making:** Reliable data on provider enrollment and utilization can help us determine gaps and target significant health areas to ensure patient access to high-quality, low-cost care.
3. **Price Transparency:** Without causing significant administrative burden, more price transparency in healthcare is necessary for patients to make informed decisions about critical healthcare needs. Moreover, health systems should know where best to send patients for care they can afford.

In conclusion, many of the provisions in the KDHE budget enhancement can support Swope Health in providing better care to the patients we serve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeron Ravin, JD  
President & CEO  
Swope Health