



To: Rep. Steve Brunk, Chair, and Members,  
House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
From: Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs  
Date: January 26, 2012

### Testimony on House Bill 2353

Thank you, Chairman Brunk and Members of the Committee. I am Rachel Monger, the Director of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas, formerly known as KAHSA. We changed our name late in 2011 to be in alignment with our national affiliate, which changed their name to LeadingAge, and to better reflect our ongoing aspiration and position as the recognized leader and knowledge resource in aging services in Kansas.

LeadingAge Kansas's 160 members include not-for-profit adult care homes, hospital long-term care units, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout Kansas.

A significant number of our members are government owned. (For instance, there are 35 government owned nursing homes in the State.) These entities provide ongoing onsite services for persons who are medically fragile and/or very elderly in congregate settings. As such, the vast majority of these entities have exercised their statutory right to prohibit firearms on their premises.

**We ask that government owned adult care homes, hospitals and congregate housing for the elderly be exempted from the new provisions included in House Bill 2353.**

Adult care homes, congregate elderly housing providers and some hospital long term care units strive to maintain a welcoming, home-like environment, even as they balance safety and security needs. Some are already required by law to have alarms on doors, buzzers to get in and out, etc. Having to install metal detectors or place guards at their entrances will not only be costly, it will raise fears among residents and visitors, reinforce negative stereotypes about adult care homes, and be counter to decades-long efforts to make adult care homes truly feel like home for the people they serve.

Thank you. I would be pleased to answer questions.