



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Judiciary Committee SB 142

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine is in support of SB 142.

Many Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine practice in a family practice setting and frequently in rural communities. In some cases they have been providing health care to a family over several generations and are therefore very connected to the family. When an "adverse outcome" occurs, the natural human response is to provide condolences, be it an apology or an expression of sympathy. Given the adversarial nature of our legal system, when an "adverse outcome" occurs, health care providers have been advised, and in some cases prohibited, from communicating or expressing any type of condolence to families for fear it will be used against them in a legal proceeding. This prohibition can result in external and internal conflict for both the family and health care provider as they do their best to cope with the "adverse outcome".

As was stated by a KAOM member regarding HB 2069, "It's rather sad that our legal system has evolved to a point whereby we need a law passed to allow us to express our condolences to patients and their families." HB 2069 will go far in allowing health care providers, their patients, and families to obtain closure.

KAOM encourages you to vote in favor of SB 142.

Thank you.

Bob Williams, M.S.
KAOM Executive Director