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KANSAS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SUBMITTED REMARKS

TO: The Honorable Vicki Schmidt, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

FROM: Whitney Damron
On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association

RE: SB 290 – An Act concerning the addictions counselor licensure act.

DATE: January 24, 2012

Madam Chair Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Psychological Association, representing doctoral-level psychologists in the State of Kansas respectfully submits this testimony for your consideration in support of SB 290, making changes to the Addiction Counselor Licensure Act.

As Senator Schmidt is aware as a member of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations, at its August 29, 2011 meeting the Kansas Psychological Association (KPA) submitted remarks in opposition to adoption of certain rules and regulations being promulgated by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) relating to licensure of addiction counselors. The KPA expressed opposition to regulations that would have limited the scope of practice for PhD psychologists in the area of addictions, even though existing educational requirements already included extensive education and training in this area, including the ability to both diagnose and treat addictions. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations requested the BSRB reconsider its regulations, which it agreed to do and during that process, the parties involved agreed statutory changes were appropriate, too.

BSRB executive director Tom Hawk created a working group to consider their proposed regulations and any necessary statutory changes. The KPA was requested to participate and Jason Deselms, Ph.D., a past president of the KPA agreed to serve in that capacity.

The KPA was provided a copy of Dr. Hawk's testimony in advance of this hearing and is in agreement with his testimony, recommendations and passage of SB 290.