



**Testimony on HB 2659  
to**

**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare**

**Presented by Deputy Secretary Aaron Dunkel  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

**March 13, 2012**

Chairwoman Schmidt, and members of the Committee, good afternoon and thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. I am here to provide testimony related to HB 2659, which will move the licensure of Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to the Kansas Department on Aging (Aging).

HB 2659 is part of a complete reorganization of the various components of the Health Occupation Program, which is currently housed within KDHE. In conjunction with Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) 41, this bill removes some licensing and credentialing activity related to health professionals from KDHE. We believe that moving SLPs and Audiologists to the Board; along with the moving of Certified Nurse Aides, Certified Home Health Aides, Certified Medication Aides, Adult Care Home Administrators, and Dieticians to the new Department on Aging and Disability Services, as outlined in ERO 41, will provide an appropriate alignment for the licensure and certification of these professions into the future. KDHE will continue to be involved in the credentialing of additional health professions, as directed in the Health Occupation Credentialing Act, 65-5001 et seq.

It is our opinion that moving SLPs and Audiologists to Aging will allow for a better regulatory alignment between these professions and the State. As we move forward KDHE is dedicated to a smooth transition and looks forward to working with Aging to assure as minimal a disruption for the SLPs and Audiologists as is possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would be glad to stand for any questions the Committee might have.

Aaron Dunkel  
Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment