



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
CARING FOR KANSANS**

**Testimony: House Bill 2159  
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee  
March 15, 2012  
By: Deborah S. Clements, MD, President**

Chairman Schmidt and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2159 on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians. KAFP represents over 1,560 practicing, resident and medical student members from across this great state of Kansas. The mission of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians is to promote access to and excellence in health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflicts our patients. We often refer patients to physical therapists and value their services very highly.

We presented testimony against HB 2159 in the House Health and Human Services Committee. Our concerns focused on issues of care fragmentation and quality of care for our patients.

Under current law, PTs may only initiate treatment under certain limited conditions, by a physician or certain other health care providers. One of our major initiatives - and that of the state of Kansas,- is the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) which involves primary care-based redesign of a practice to emphasize team-based care and coordination of patient-centered care across the health care spectrum. The model has been shown to provide both higher quality care and lower health care costs. We are currently piloting the PCMH in eight practices across the state.

Amendments subsequent to the House hearing have made the bill less objectionable. At this time, we do not oppose it; nor do we endorse it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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