

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Brenda Landwehr, Chairperson
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Statehouse, Room 151-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Landwehr:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2159 by House Committee on Health and Human Services

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2159 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2159 would allow physical therapists to evaluate and initiate physical therapy treatment on a patient without a referral from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts.

The Board of Healing Arts states that physical therapist education and training does not provide for evaluation and diagnosis of the whole body. The Board believes that passage of HB 2159 would result in additional complaints against physical therapy practitioners. The Board is concerned that the elimination of referral requirements would decrease patient safety and increase the number of investigations that would need to be performed by Board staff and the number of disciplinary cases handled by the Board itself. An increase in the number of investigations and disciplinary cases assigned to Board staff would increase the agency's operating expenses proportionally. However, because the potential increase in workload cannot be predicted, a precise fiscal effect cannot be determined. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2159 is not reflected in *The FY 2012 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Cathy Brown, Healing Arts