



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

*Fr: Bob Williams
Executive Director*

Date: February 19, 2013

Subject: HB 2199: The Second Amendment Protection Act

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM) is in support of the testimony provided by the Kansas Medical Society (KMS).

As indicated in the testimony offered by KMS, primary care physicians routinely treat patients for a variety of disorders, including mental health disorders. Due to factors such as ease of communication, accessible location, familiarity, and increasingly issues of cost and managed care requirements, the family physician is usually the first medical practitioner contacted by a patient. Also many health maintenance organizations position primary care physicians as "gatekeepers", who regulate access to more costly procedures or specialists. Ideally, the primary care physician acts on behalf of the patient to collaborate with referral specialists as well as coordinate the care given by varied organizations such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and mental health clinics. The family physician is a trusted figure. As such, it is important for the family physician to be free to discuss any and all matters relevant to the patient's health. These conversations, with limited exceptions, are protected by the doctor-patient relationship which has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. In its current format, HB 2199 would tie the hands of the family physician in his/her efforts to provide medical care to their patients.

While KAOM believes Section 9, lines 33-37 on page three of the bill are over-reaching and should be struck from the bill, KAOM supports the amendment offered by the Kansas Medical Society.