



Written Testimony in Support of HB 2184  
House Health & Human Services Committee  
Feb. 12, 2013

Dear Rep. Crum and Members of the Committee:

**American Lung Association in Kansas strongly supports HB 2184 and the efforts to establish a statewide treatment plan for comprehensive treatment for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).**

The mission of the American Lung Association is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, advocacy and education. According to the 2011 BRFSS conducted by KDHE almost 12% of Kansans over 65 suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). In the United States it is the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death. More than 12 million people are currently diagnosed with COPD and an additional 12 million likely have the disease but do not know it. While COPD is not curable it is definitely treatable. Without treatment patients continually experience reduced lung capacity making their disease disabling. Patients with COPD often suffer from other health effects – loss of bone density and muscle mass, for example – due to inactivity. In addition, these people are often home-bound and experience depression. Their quality of life is significantly affected.

Not only does COPD affect the patient but it also affects the family members. Without adequate treatment, the patient needs continuous care. When the patient becomes home-bound due to their disease, so does the care-giving family member.

The American Lung Association always advocates for education, research and treatment for COPD. Early treatment intervention can postpone deterioration of lung function and can curb health care costs associated with a worsening condition. Early treatment also will allow patients to live a fuller life, often extending their lives significantly. Treatment for patients with COPD is often compromised by their inability to get quality care due to the lack of an accepted statewide treatment plan and/or their ability to pay for services.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you to pass vote to support this bill. Our senior citizens often are the invisible people in our community and need your voice. The American Lung Association is requesting to be a part of the process to create a state plan in collaboration with the secretary of health & environment.

Sincerely,

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