



February 11, 2013

To: Rep. Dave Crum, Chair
Members, Kansas House Health and Human Service Committee

Subject: HB 2184

I am writing to support HB 2184 that would create a state plan for the comprehensive treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

I am Director of the Respiratory Care Department at Wesley Medical Center. As a Respiratory Therapist with 40 years of experience I have seen the impact of this devastating disease on the citizens of Kansas. At Wesley, we treat patients with COPD from throughout the state. Many patients from the more rural areas of the state have limited access to pulmonologists, pulmonary rehabilitation and expert care. Access to quality care will help reduce or eliminate exacerbations which can lead to costly emergency room visits and/or hospital admissions or readmissions.

As you may know, COPD is the 3rd leading causing death in the United States. In Kansas, approximately 133,000 individuals are diagnosed with COPD and it is estimated a similar number are currently undiagnosed. Early diagnosis and intervention is essential to the proper treatment of COPD.

I am pleased that the Committee has introduced this important legislation to improve the respiratory health of the citizens of Kansas. **I urge you to support and vote YES on HB 2184.**

Sincerely,

Debbie Fox, RRT

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