

November 5, 2013

Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations
Chairperson Sharon Schwartz and Committee Members

Chairperson Schwartz-

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written remarks concerning the responsibilities of, assessment of and disbursements for the nursing facility quality care assessment program.

Kansas Health Care Association is here today to support the changes to this regulation being proposed by the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services.

As you all know by now, the provider assessment is used to bring Medicaid dollars to the state of Kansas. Current Kansas law says nursing home providers are to be reimbursed by averaging the three most current cost reports and then rebasing being done annually by the Department. So, because of our economic issues, the Legislature and the department has decided to not rebase or update the payment structure. But, the additional dollars Kansas will receive by raising the assessment will help.

In Kansas, about 55% of our nursing home residents have their stays funded by Medicaid. Kansas homes lose an average of (-\$12.45) per person per day. This has risen from (-11.58) in 2011.

Kansas will once again ask the skilled nursing home providers to assist Kansas in drawing down more dollars to continue to provide quality care to the seniors of Kansas.

These are trying times for providers. Thank you for your support of the regulation.

Cindy Luxem
CEO, Kansas Health Care Association