



To: Senator Sharon Schwartz, Chair, and  
Members of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations  
From: Debra Zehr, President/CEO, LeadingAge Kansas  
Date: November 5, 2013

### **Testimony in Support of Quality Care Assessment Increase**

Thank you Madam Chair and Members of the Committee for this opportunity to lend our support for the proposed increase in the nursing home quality care assessment.

I am Debra Zehr, President/CEO of LeadingAge Kansas. Our members include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living and residential health care residences, PACE programs, homes plus, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout the State. Together they serve more than 20,000 older Kansans.

LeadingAge Kansas supports the proposed change to K.A.R. 129-10-31, which would increase the current quality care assessment for nursing homes to the statutory maximum of \$1950 per licensed bed.

It is clear that the State is facing significant budget challenges at this time, and is not going to be able to put any more money toward maintaining nursing home rates in FY 2014. Specifically, money has not been appropriated for the last two state fiscal years to fulfill the statutorily required rebase when calculating Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes. Consequently, the gap between actual cost of care and Medicaid reimbursement continues to widen. Raising the current quality care assessment to the statutory maximum will alleviate some of the fiscal pressure by allowing the State to use the assessment to enhance nursing home rates.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer questions.