



To: Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Chair, and Members,
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
From: Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs
Date: March 13, 2013

Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 186

Thank you, Chairman Ostmeyer and Members of the Committee. I am Rachel Monger, the Director of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas (formerly known as the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging). LeadingAge Kansas's 160 members include not-for-profit adult care homes, hospital long-term care units, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout Kansas.

A significant number of our members are government owned. (For instance, there are 35 government owned nursing homes in the State.) These entities provide ongoing, onsite services for persons who are medically fragile and/or very elderly in congregate settings. As such, the vast majority of these entities have exercised their statutory right to prohibit firearms on their premises.

We respectfully urge the Committee to preserve the option for local governing bodies to exempt their buildings (including adult care homes and hospital long term care units) from the provisions of SB 186.

Adult care homes and hospital long term care units strive to maintain a welcoming, home-like environment, even as they balance safety and security needs. Some are already required by law to have alarms on doors, buzzers to get in and out, etc. Having to install metal detectors or place guards at their entrances will not only be costly, it will raise fears among residents and visitors, reinforce negative stereotypes about adult care homes, and be counter to decades-long efforts to make adult care homes truly feel like home for the people they serve.

Thank you. I would be pleased to answer questions.