

# Coffey County Commissioners



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**Board of Commissioners**  
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
ON SB 160

FEBRUARY 18, 2013

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn, and I am a Coffey County Commissioner. I am submitting written testimony to you today to request that you oppose SB 160 and its unjustified prohibition on allowing local health departments to seek accreditation.

My county is moving forward with accreditation efforts. Our approach is multi-jurisdictional, and represents a combined effort of an eight-county region to demonstrate that we meet certain standards. These standards represent a level of quality and professionalism that any Kansan should be able to expect, regardless of where they live. No one forced us to pursue accreditation. We chose to do it because we think it offers benefits, both economic and social, to Coffey County and to the surrounding communities involved in our joint effort.

As a county commissioner, I serve on the local board of health for Coffey County. My responsibilities are defined in state statutes, and reflect the understanding that in Kansas we operate a decentralized public health system. This makes the counties accountable for the successes and failures of the local health departments. As such, the determination to pursue accreditation should rest with local leaders. SB 160 is an unwarranted, unjustified, and unreasonable attempt by the Kansas Legislature to micromanage a local function.

In summary, I urge you to reject SB 160. Local health departments are precisely that, local. The local boards of health bear responsibility in overseeing their successful operation and that they pursue programs and activities of relevance to the area's citizens. This bill offers no value.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer my thoughts on SB 160.

Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn  
Coffey County Commissioner