

**Testimony to the
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 160**

**By
Gina Frack
February 18th, 2013**

Madam Chairperson, members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, I am Gina Frack, administrator of the Norton County Health Department in Norton, Kansas. I have been in this position for over 13 years and participated as Beta Site for the National Public Health Accreditation standards overseen by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in 2009-2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss how SB 160 will negatively impact the attempts of public health in Kansas to improve transparency, efficiency and accountability.

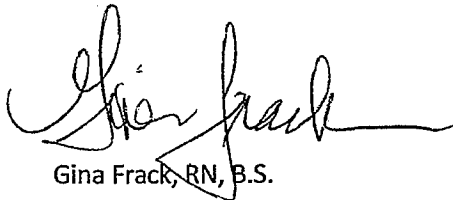
Public health accreditation is a voluntary process. As a Beta Site, it was clear that the accreditation process was focused on improving public health, not about the process itself. Public Health Accreditation Board describes it (PHAB) in 2009-2011. The purpose of accreditation for public health is best said by PHAB.

"Public health department accreditation is defined as the development of a set of standards, a process to measure health department performance against those standards, and reward or recognition for those health departments who meet the standards." (PHAB Website 2013)

The decision for a local health department to strive to reach accreditation standards is made by the local board of health, which in Kansas, is also the board of county commissioners. Just as the state should not make accreditation of LHDs mandatory, it also shouldn't ban LHDs from trying to achieve it.

Schools, fire departments, law enforcement and enumerable other public service entities and individuals are accredited. Why ban LHDs in Kansas from trying to improve what we do.....promoting health/wellness, preventing disease and injury, and protecting from harm all Kansans?

Madam Chairperson, thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 160.



Gina Frack, RN, B.S.