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Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 217

March 7, 2013

Chairwoman Pilcher-Cook and Members of the Committee,

My name is Les Sperling and I am the CEO of the Central Kansas Foundation (CKF). CKF has been providing quality Substance Use Disorder services for Kansans in need since 1967. We currently serve Kansans in five locations across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 217. In 2010 after years of effort, HB 2577, the Addiction Counselors Licensure act was passed by the Kansas Legislature. Following passage HB 2577, the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board formed a working group to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for implementation.

This group included representatives from all disciplines licensed by BSRB including the Kansas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Over a year of meetings concluded with full agreement by ALL parties and resulted in the passage of SB 100 in 2011 to further clarify the original HB 2577.

It is difficult for me to understand why it is necessary to revisit the very issues which were resolved and agreed to through the exhaustive BSRB process. Having been involved in this process since its inception, it is my view that every point the KNASW is attempting to make in support of SB 217 has been identified and resolved.

Kansans deserve the highest quality of care delivered by highly trained and skilled clinicians. SB 217 will erode confidence in our workforce and I urge you not to support the bill. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service.

Cordially,

Les Sperling
CEO