



Tom Bell
President and CEO

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare

FROM: Chad Austin
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

DATE: March 11, 2013

RE: Senate Bill 210

On behalf on the 126 member institutions of the Kansas Hospital Association, we appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 210. The proposed legislation would consolidate the efforts to support the sharing of health information and the adoption of health information technology under the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

For the last ten or more years, the Kansas Hospital Association and Kansas hospital leaders have worked in partnership with the state and other stakeholders to assure that Kansas hospitals, physicians and other providers can exchange critical health information in a way that supports patient care, improves quality and gains efficiencies wherever possible. The culmination of that effort was the passage of the Kansas Health Information Technology and Exchange Act (KHITE) during the 2011 legislative session. KHITE formally incorporated the electronic medical record into Kansas law, harmonized our laws with HIPAA and set a structure for the oversight of health information organizations (HIO's), the entities that provide the technology for the sharing of health information.

Since the passage of KHITE, much work has been done and many lessons learned. While KHITE established in law the Kansas Health Information Exchange, Inc., it assumed that this new organization would provide the technology to support the sharing of information. In the end, health information exchange in Kansas is conducted by two entrepreneurial organizations that are regulated by KHIE. After much thought and input, we believe that this regulatory role can be consolidated under KDHE who will continue to engage stakeholders and provide leadership in these efforts.

The amendments to the original statute also clean up HIPAA language, clarify when restricted information may be accessed and establish an advisory committee structure. Thank you for your time and consideration of our comment supporting SB 210.

Kansas Hospital Association

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