

Testimony in Support of HB 2183.....March 14, 2013

The significant majority of states presently have laws or regulations which help define the process and policy for emergency personnel to follow in the case of a significant exposure to patients' blood or body fluids. The state laws and/or regulations are intended to complement the federal Ryan White Act which provided some expectations that hospitals would assist emergency personnel with this regard.

The federal law also clarifies the topic with regard to HIPAA and provides for CDC and OSHA creating expectations for training and proper materials.

The necessary state laws and/or regulations would help define what diseases were of concern, the need for very timely base line testing and source testing. Emphasis on confidentiality of the process. Common terms, common process and establishment of policies within hospitals and emergency services agencies; proper notification of personnel regarding patient transfers, and airborne/droplet disease exposure issues.

The emergency services community has been working with the KDHE with the support of KMS and KHA to proceed with the adjustment in Kansas law as proposed by HB 2183 with the intent to collaborate with the formulation of regulations in the coming months.

The Mid-America Regional Council (council of local governments around the Kansas City area), sub-committee on ambulance services (known as MARCER) developed the initial version of HB 2183 and is in support of the present version of HB 2183.

Sincerely,

Jason White

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