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Testimony Supporting House Bill 2322 Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Nathan Bainbridge, Legislative Liaison Kansas Department of Health and Environment

March 19, 2013

Madam Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of HB 2322. KDHE currently has three divisions: the Division of Environment, the Division of Health Care Finance, and the Division of Health. This bill will simply rename the Division of Health to the Division of *Public* Health.

We believe this change will more accurately describe the mission and function of this Division which is comprised of nine bureaus:

- Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics
- Disease Control and Prevention
- Family Health
- Health Promotion
- Community Health Systems
- Environmental Health
- Oral Health
- Center for Health Equity
- Center for Performance Management

This Division contains many of the State's vital public health functions such as infectious disease tracking, Newborn Screening, the TB control program, and the Local Public Health Program, among many others. These bureaus and their programs are focused on key areas of public health, and hence the name Division of *Public* Health better describes it.

We ask the committee to report HB 2322 favorable for passage. I will be happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.