



To: Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
From: Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs, LeadingAge Kansas
Date: March 20, 2013

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2160

Thank you Madam Chair and Members of the Committee for this opportunity to lend our support for House Bill 2160.

I am Rachel Monger, the Director of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas, formerly known as KAHSA. Our members include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living and residential health care residences, PACE programs, homes plus, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout the State. Together they serve more than 20,000 older Kansans.

LeadingAge Kansas supports House Bill 2160, which would eliminate the 40% reduction in the nursing home bed tax that is scheduled to begin in July, 2013.

Rationale: It is clear that the State is facing significant budget challenges at this time and is not going to be able to put any more money toward maintaining nursing home rates in FY 2014. If the nursing home bed tax is decreased by 40%, the State's total pool of dollars for Medicaid Nursing Facility rates will drop by 3.7% (approximately \$17 Million) in FY 2014. Passage of House Bill 2160 will keep the total funds for the program whole and prevent rate cuts.

House Bill 2160 also includes a "clean up" amendment to establish a specific date for the tax to sunset altogether. The current language in regards to this is ambiguous. It is our sincere hope that, when the State recovers financially, the State will reassume their obligation to fully fund the Medicaid Nursing Facility Program.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer questions.