



Kansas Advocates
for
Better Care

Making Elder Care Better Since 1975

Founded in 1975 as *Kansans for Improvement of Nursing Homes* by concerned citizens like you.

March 16, 2015

Chairman Hawkins, and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 121. KABC is a not-for-profit organization, beholden to no commercial interests and is supported almost entirely by donations from citizens who support our mission of improving the quality of care in all long-term settings. KABC was among a handful of non-profit consumer advocacy groups which worked to win passage of the Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987.

SB 121 proposes two changes to the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight committee:

- It adds an extra day to the committee's schedule during either the third or fourth quarter, making one meeting a year a two-day meeting. This was a recommendation from the 2014 HCBS/KanCare Oversight Committee.
- It removes the statutory requirement that certain members of the joint HCBS/KanCare Oversight Committee be appointed from the budget committees of both chambers. This change in was NOT discussed or recommended by the Oversight Committee.

KABC supports the committee's recommendation to add another day to the meeting schedule during the interim. The Oversight Committee has oversight responsibilities across a broad range of fiscal and policy issues and the additional meeting day would allow them additional time to hear from consumers and more deeply examine the effectiveness of KanCare.

KABC, however, strongly opposes the change in the committee structure. The Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight Committee was established in 2013 by the passage of HB 2025. Advocates worked with Rep. Crum in amending existing law that created the original HCBS Oversight Committee to include KanCare. The original HCBS Oversight Committee included members of both the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Because of the new Oversight Committee would monitor the policy and fiscal changes brought about by managed care, it was agreed that there should be representation from both the budget committee and the health committees

Lt. Colyer's chief of staff, Mark Dugan, testified in support of HB 2025, saying the Oversight Committee as proposed would provide "effective legislative oversight of KanCare." The Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services also testified in support saying "we are supportive of the current legislative committee structure as it affords the opportunity to provide data, share information and answer questions in an expeditious manner."

Medicaid is the second largest expenditure within the State budget. Fiscal and policy oversight is equally critical to measure the impact on KanCare members and providers as well as the State budget. **KABC asks that the stricken language on page 2, Sec. 1(b) be restored and the members retained from the budget committees.**

On behalf of KABC members and volunteers,
Mitzi E. McFatrach, Executive Director