

House Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman Dan Hawkins

January 13, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen-

We are the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living, a trade association with a membership of nursing homes, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health. We are the oldest and largest nursing home trade association in Kansas. Our membership takes care of 20,000 elders across the state each and every day. The homes who care for these elders directly employ more than 45,228 Kansans. And you might not be aware of this but there is a senior care home in each and every county one of the 105 counties in the state. KHCA/KCAL has a member home in the majority of counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Medicaid integrated waiver. According to KDADS, the seven waivers have more 23,000 recipients receiving services of those, just over 5000 are on the Frail Elder waiver. We understand that services in seven silos is inefficient, ineffective and antiquated. While collapsing the silos and consolidating services from all waivers into one ala carte menu for Kansans seems to make a lot of sense on the surface however we are ever mindful each unique individual has unique needs but we want to make sure the frail elders do not end up losing services.

According to the KDADS website, there are 212 Assisted Living /Residential Health Care Centers and 129 Home Plus in Kansas. Currently, between 20-25% of frail elders are served in these settings so we have an interest in their access. I would like for you to look at the map of Kansas. We need the state and the insurance companies to commit to increasing community access. And in the simple terms we need more care options in many parts of the state.

Currently, the payment model limits the willingness of caregivers to participate. We have been working on payment models since 2011 that would make it more feasible for providers to care for HCBS clients. We have a model which would open the door on more choices for seniors and stable reimbursement for providers. **We need your help to make this discussions a priority.**

Our population is aging and care options are not keeping pace. We want to partner with you, the agency, the MCOs and to find the solution our Kansas Elders so richly deserve.

Any questions?