



Tom Bell
President and CEO

TO: House Taxation Committee

FROM: Chad Austin
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

DATE: March 11, 2015

RE: House Bill 2298

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2298, which removes the statutory sunset on the rural opportunity zones program. KHA believes this legislation would continue to assist in the recruitment of health care providers to many of our rural communities.

Kansas continues to face a shortage of the individuals most important to a strong healthcare system — physicians, nurses and other allied practitioners. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, nearly 90 Kansas counties have a designation as a primary care health professional shortage area. Accordingly, hospitals from all parts of the state continually report difficulty in recruiting and retaining physicians and other health care professionals. House Bill 2298 would continue to complement the workforce recruitment efforts already underway in our state by providing additional incentives through income tax rebates and student loan forgiveness for those individuals relocating from out of state.

The success of the Kansas health care system in rural areas depends upon the availability of properly educated and trained health care professionals. The Kansas Hospital Association and its members request your support for House Bill 2298. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.