



Tom Bell
President and CEO

TO: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

FROM: Chad Austin
Senior Vice President of Government Relations

DATE: February 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 187

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 187, which extends the rural opportunity zones program through 2023. 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. Senate Bill 187 would 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 Senate Bill 187. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Kansas Hospital Association

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