



February 18, 2015
Senate Commerce Committee
SB 167

Chairwoman Lynn, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Kevin McFarland. I work for LeadingAge Kansas – an association that represents over 160 not-for-profit aging services providers in Kansas. Our members serve over 20,000 Senior Kansans every day and employ over 15,000 Kansas workers. I am the president of our group-funded workers' compensation pool, KING that has been in operation for 25 years. Today I am here to urge you to vote "no" on SB 167.

As part of the workers' compensation reforms passed in 2011 and 2013 we support the use of the 6th edition of the AMA Guide. It is the most current edition and is reflective of modern practices and advances in medicine.

The 6th edition also allows for rating impairment based on an individual's treatment outcome, not a rating based on the injury as prescribed in the 4th edition.

Since the use of the AMA 6th edition took effect January 1, 2015 Kansas has not had the opportunity to see and study its impact.

Finally, over 20 states and our federal government utilize the AMA 6th edition in determining impairment rating.

Staying the course with the AMA Guide 6th edition in workers' compensation keeps Kansas current and reflects modern advances in medicine and an individual's treatment outcome.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.