



Testimony on Senate Bill 182
presented to
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By

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The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) appreciates this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 182. The major change affected by this bill is the transition of the position of Medicaid Inspector General from a classified employee to an unclassified employee. There is also minor clean up language in the bill related to Executive Reorganization Order 41.

KDHE asked for this bill after attempting to refill the Inspector General's position numerous times in the last two years. On at least three occasions a major factor in not being able to bring a qualified candidate to the position was the inability of the agency to negotiate an acceptable salary. Unfortunately, the inclusion of this position in the classified service greatly reduced our negotiating flexibility when attempting to hire a new Inspector General. This bill would allow us to hire the position as an unclassified position, thereby allowing us much greater flexibility in salary negotiations. All of the protections afforded the position remain unchanged in the statute, such as the definition of term and independence of the position, only the classified/unclassified designation changes.

I will be happy to stand for any questions.