

KCA

www.kscounseling.org

PRESIDENT

Kris Burkholder

431 Elm

Marion, KS 66861

620-382-3771

burkhkri@usd408.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Val Beikmann

602 Woodland Ave.

Minneapolis, KS 67467

785-392-2565

vbeikmann@usd239.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Diann Faflick

10110 E Mainsgate Cir.

Wichita, KS 67226

316-258-5600

dfaflck@usd259.net

SECRETARY

Laura Nichols

2636 SE 33rd

Topeka, KS 66605

620-344-0650

lnichols@tps501.org

TREASURER

Mijin Chung

1 Kellogg Circle

Campus Box 4036

Emporia, KS 60801

620-341-5797

mchung@emporia.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Urenda

10116 West 86th Terrace

Overland Park, KS 66212

913-226-2085

kca.urenda@gmail.com



"A Branch of the American Counseling Association"

Testimony on SB 449

On Behalf of the Kansas Counseling Association

A Branch of the American Counseling Association

February 15, 2016

Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

This letter is being written on behalf of the members of the Kansas Counseling Association (KCA). The KCA represents professional counselors throughout the State of Kansas serving in various professional settings. As a branch of the American Counseling Association (ACA), KCA is committed to the ethical practice of training competent counselors as prescribed by the 2014 ACA code of ethics. Supervision ensures that professional counselors have the skills, disposition, and knowledge necessary to adequately treat their clients. Training and continuing education for supervisors are considered best practices by the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), a division of ACA representing counselor educators and supervisors throughout the United States.

Supervision is considered to be a vital component of the counselor development process and a function that has a significant impact on the welfare of clients served by professional counselors (ACA, 2014). It is widely accepted that competent supervisory practices encourage the development of competent counselors by increasing counselor self-efficacy and mastery of counseling skills (Kozina, Grabovari, Stefano, and Drapeau, 2010). The ACA specifically addresses the requirements for counselor supervision, stating that before any counselor can provide supervision, they must receive training in supervisory methods and techniques. Counselors acting as supervisors are required to pursue continuing education opportunities to remain current on issues and skills pertinent to supervision. Supervisors have the responsibility of evaluating the fitness of their supervisees to enter and continue in the practice of professional counseling.

McMahon and Simons (2004) found that it is unlikely that professional counselors will receive training on being a supervisor prior to entering the field, creating an ethical dilemma for counselor supervisors in Kansas. SB 449 will ensure that professional counselors who desire to engage in the provision of supervision will have the ability to adequately and ethically monitor and develop the counselors with whom they work. This legislation will also place Kansas among other states that already require training prior to engaging in the practice of supervision. We respectfully request that you support SB 449 for these reasons. Furthermore, KCA would be happy to partner with other organizations and institutions to help provide training for counselor supervisors should this legislation be enacted.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Burkholder
KCA President

Andrew Secor
KCA Legislative and Advocacy Chair

The Kansas Counseling Association will not knowingly engage in activities that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or age.