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February 15, 2017

House Appropriations Committee

**Testimony in Support of
House Bill 2180**

Chairman Waymaster and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Little and I am the lobbyist for the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP). KAAP is the state's only professional association dedicated solely to substance use disorder treatment and prevention providers. We represent providers in Kansas who work as non-profits, for profits, local governments, and individuals in private practice.

The State's substance use disorder treatment provider system was impacted by the Governor's 4 percent reduction in Medicaid reimbursement rates last summer. Our system is funded primarily through federal block grants and state grants, and Medicaid makes up a smaller portion of our funding stream. Nonetheless, the Medicaid eligible population comes to in extreme poverty and with very high needs. Reductions in reimbursements on any level are difficult to absorb.

We support the Legislature's efforts to restore previous treatment funding reductions as you continue to work toward a positive resolution of the structural revenue issues impacting State government. Increasing the hospital and MCO privilege fees, while not optimal, with the addition of federal funds, is one of the less difficult means to raise much needed revenue to sustain services for those most in need.