



Thomas L. Bell  
President

To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Chad Austin  
Senior Vice President Government Relations

Date: March 12, 2018

Re: House Bill 2688

On behalf of the 127 community hospitals in Kansas, the Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to share comments in support of House Bill 2688. The proposed legislation establishes the Behavioral Health Task Force and provides an additional forum to discuss potential behavioral health care strategies and recommendations.

Kansas hospitals continue to see first-hand the growing behavioral health care needs for our state. The availability of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services is crucial for the well-being of Kansans and providers seeking placement for psychiatric patients. Our members appreciate the work that was started last year by the Mental Health Task Force. The recommendations and priorities identified in their final report are thoughtful and deserve consideration. We believe the Behavioral Health Task Force created under House Bill 2688 will build upon those recommendations and continue to seek solutions to address the continuing behavioral health challenges in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments in support of House Bill 2688.