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April Holman, Executive Director, KACE
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
House Bill 2427
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Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for the implementation of a national background check system for adult care providers.

The Kansas Adult Care Executives (KACE) is a non-partisan, non-profit professional association serving nursing home administrators and assisted living operators in Kansas. Our membership includes 300 individual administrators and operators from both the non-profit and for-profit adult care sectors. Our members are located throughout the state of Kansas and several of our members serve as both the administrator and owner of their facilities.

Our members are dedicated to protecting the vulnerable elders within their care. Unfortunately, the current system of state background checks does not adequately inform providers of crimes that occur outside of the state of Kansas. This is particularly problematic for providers in border communities like those in the Kansas City metro area, but it occurs across the state.

Along with representatives of a number of other stakeholder groups, KACE participated in a national background check advisory group convened by KDADS in 2015. The advisory group spent about a year studying the current system of background checks in Kansas and policy options related to implementing a national background check for adult care employees and infrastructure to support the new system. We supported the bill last year although we expressed concerns over the potential cost to providers for the new background checks. We participated in recent conversations with stakeholders designed to improve upon the first draft of the bill and we support the proposed bill before you today.

The national background check will help our members in their ongoing efforts to protect their residents from abuse and this bill will allow the state continued access to federal resources provided for the transition to the new system. This, in turn, will lower the cost of the background checks for providers.

For these reasons, we ask for your support for the passage of HB 2427 implementing a national background check system for the employees working in adult care.