



Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals

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Chairman Hawkins and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Steve Denny. I currently serve as Director of Clinical Services at Four County Mental Health Center located in Independence, KS. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor.

I am testifying on behalf of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP), the state's sole trade association dedicated to the treatment and prevention of substance use disorders. I am here to express full support of House Bill 2106 on behalf of KAAP.

KAAP believes that House Bill 2106, if passed, to be a positive advancement for the field of substance use disorder treatment in Kansas. We are seeking this bill because it will allow nationally accredited providers through organizations such as the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or the Joint Commission to meet state regulatory requirements through their national accreditation. You will hear from several substance use providers who will explain in greater detail as to how this bill would benefit their organizations in greater detail following my testimony.

Beyond organizational benefits and convenience, KAAP believes that this bill to be reflective of the overall direction of behavioral health care. Many substance use disorder organizations are currently providing or are looking to provide more comprehensive services to individuals receiving care in their organizations including co-occurring mental health treatment and psychiatric services. Integrated primary care is also recognized as a future option in the field. National accreditation creates a platform for more organizations to develop services to meet the needs of individuals in a more integrated cost-effective framework with fewer duplicative regulatory processes.

We are seeking this change in law after the 2016 legislative session when the Legislature and the Governor approved Senate Bill 449. This bill provided the exact same authority to licensed community mental health centers. Senate Bill 449 included very specific language as requested by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to be included in the law. In House Bill 2106, Section 1 (b) (A and B) you will find the same requirements as requested by KDADS to support the bill for community mental health centers in 2016. We concur with their position and have included in House Bill 2106 the exact same language.

We urge your support for House Bill 2106 and passage out of committee. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.