



Tom Bell  
President and CEO

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee  
FROM: Chad Austin, Senior Vice President Government Relations  
DATE: February 7, 2017  
RE: House Bill 2031

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of House Bill 2031. The proposed legislation establishes the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Palliative care is a specialized type of medical care provided to individuals with serious illnesses. The care focuses on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The primary goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

KHA supports the formation of the advisory council to assist in educating consumers and health care providers on the benefits of palliative care. As part of their responsibilities, the advisory council will develop recommendations and advise KDHE on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, outcomes evaluation of palliative care initiatives in Kansas. In addition, KDHE will be responsible for developing resources and materials to educate consumers and health care providers on the significance of palliative care.

On behalf of the members of the Kansas Hospital Association, we urge the committee to support the passage of House Bill 2031.