

HB 2195 Testimony from John Ferraro, PhD, FASHA, FAA, ASHA Honor

Good afternoon. My name is John Ferraro and I have been Professor and Chair of the Hearing and Speech Department at the KU Medical Center and Co-Director of the KU Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders for the past 33 years. It has been my privilege to serve on the KDADS Advisory Board in Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology since 2012. I'm here to speak in support of HB 2195. To me, the most impressive aspect of what our advisory board does is protecting the public. During my tenure, we have dealt with such items as fraudulent advertising, inappropriate applications for credentialing, and complaints from both public and private sectors about services related to speech-language-hearing health care. The Board comprises a diverse array of professionals, again from public and private sectors, whose role is to help the Department deal with issues in the most objective and fair manner, where expertise is of paramount importance, and in a way that protects both the professionals who provide services in speech-language pathology and audiology in Kansas, and the individuals who receive these services. The Board runs smoothly, licensure is well-managed, and oversight by the Board provides consumers the necessary protection we would expect and deserve from a licensing agency.

In addition, and from my interactions with the KDADS staff, this bill does not jeopardize the profession of Hearing Instrument Specialist, nor are the businesses of these professionals threatened by any aspect of it. KDADS serves to protect consumers from harm, and supports the professionals it licenses. I'm confident that the Department will provide the same level and quality of oversight to hearing instrument specialists as it does for speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my support for HB 2195