

February 13, 2017

Testimony by James Wise, Ph.D., former President of Associated Audiologists, Inc., Past President of the Kansas-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Past Chairman of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Past Associate Professor of Audiology, University of Kansas Medical Center

Presented to the House Health and Human Services Committee  
Re: HB2195

Dear Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

During the 30 plus years I practiced audiology in Kansas I saw tremendous change in the delivery of hearing health care to consumers, which resulted in vast improvement in their lives and the lives of their families and loved ones through advancement in technology. However, in certain ways the licensing process for audiologists and hearing instrument specialists lags behind; its current structure is confusing for consumers and cumbersome for professionals.

I support HB2195 for these reasons:

Currently, a consumer with a complaint must seek remedy from two governing entities. HB2195 would consolidate licensure under one umbrella entity, KDADS, with the result that the process of obtaining remedy, when necessary, will be less confusing and more efficient for consumers.

The Board of Hearing Aid Examiners operates fewer than 40 hours per week and employees a part-time staff. This operating structure has resulted in numerous complications in the process of obtaining dispensing licensure, such as delays in issuing licenses—which in turn impacts the timely processing of other professional affiliations, for example credentialing applications with third parties: insurance companies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, to name a few.

The proposal in HB 2195 for KDADS to receive advisory input from both the audiology and hearing instrument specialist bodies will result in KDADS having access to first-hand knowledge regarding of the scope of practice of each professional group.

In summary, the bill benefits consumers, audiologists, and hearing instrument specialists by proposing a more efficient and workable framework for the licensing of providers. Realistically, it does not affect or threaten the scope of practice of the professionals involved. Rather, it represents a common sense approach to updating the licensing process and may result in cost savings to the state of Kansas.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2195. Should you have questions, please contact me at [jimwise48@gmail.com](mailto:jimwise48@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

James A. Wise, Ph.D.