

February 7, 2017

Dear Chairman Hawkins and the other Honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing today to express my support for HB 2195. I am a licensed Audiologist in the state of Kansas and I also hold a Kansas Hearing Aid license. I am also a business owner working directly with the public so I believe I can speak to the issue since I hold license, since I employ staff who hold licenses, and since I serve individuals with hearing loss who this may affect.

I would like to begin by stating my appreciation for the work that Dr. Zack Miller provides as Director of the Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners. I recognize the difficult position he has been in to both support and protect the board that he leads. I would like to be clear that my written support for HB 2195 is not a reflection on his leadership. As director, he is juggling full-time employment along with the demands of the part-time role for the Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners.

I believe that moving the Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners under the umbrella of the Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities (KDADS) will both provide needed support, efficiency, and improved access for consumers and those members who hold hearing aid dispensing licenses. KDADS already successfully implements and manages other consumer rights and licenses of other allied health professions; therefore it seems logical to move the independent Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners under the expertise of KDADS. This would also provide the opportunity for a website for on-line information and consistent access for inquiries via phone calls. In addition, KDADS utilizes effective protocols for monitoring, follow-up, and enforcement of consumer complaint and licensee concerns.

During a time of tight budgets, this seems like a common sense move to promote improved efficiency while also promoting improved services, consumer-protection, and access already provided under KDADS. It is also my understanding that this type of structure is consistent with most other state licensing agencies.

It would be a pleasure for me to address any questions or concerns you may have. I can be available by email at tim@hearingyourbest.com or by mobile phone at (913) 575-2038. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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