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Testimony re: HB 2195
House Health and Human Services Committee
Presented by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of
Kansas Hearing Aid Association
February 13, 2017

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Kansas Hearing Society (KHS). KHS is the professional association for licensed hearing aid dispensers and dispensing audiologists in the state.

Today I would like to share my knowledge about how efficient the Kansas Board of Examiners of Hearing Instruments Dispensers is. When I served on senate Ways and Means, I had the opportunity to chair the sub-committee which reviewed the budget of the then Board of Hearing Aid Examiners. In 1981-4, their budget was approximately \$6,000-7,000. FY2018, their budget is approximately \$26,000. In 1984, the Board of Healing Arts budget was \$311,000, and in FY 2018, the Board of Healing Arts budget is more than \$5 million. In 1984, the SGF budget was \$1.5 billion. I am not criticizing the Board of Healing Arts, but I do believe that the Board of Hearing Aid Examiners is one of the most, if not the most, efficient agencies in Kansas state government.

If the board had been under a large state agency as proposed by HB 2195 over the years, I believe their budget would be substantially higher than \$26,000. As with all fee boards, there is no SGF dollars in their budget, and they actually pay the SGF 10% of their budget as do all fee boards.

So since there are no taxpayers dollars in this budget, then the intent of HB 2195 is not to create efficiency for taxpayers' money. And, in fact, it will not create any efficiency. The regulated licensees who pay the fees for the Board monitor such fees closely, and demand efficiency.

Ironically, it costs money every time a bill is introduced, with costs assigned to bill introductions in the past. I imagine it costs the state more to print/process this bill than the agency budget. This bill is not about efficiency. What is the motives of HB 2195. Why move a small ,efficient, effective agency to a large, arguably more bureaucratic agency? Others will address their views on the motives for this bill. This bill does nothing but one thing..move an unbelievably efficient agency into a larger state agency. It improves nothing, but threatens both hearing aid dispensers and the public served by this profession,

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify, and I will be happy to yield to questions.