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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Health and Human Services Committee

Proponent

HB 2254

February 13, 2017

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding HB 2254 which defines and provides oversight by the Board of Healing Arts for the practice of Telehealth.

While “telemedicine” has been around for years, advances in electronic communications have made the practice of telemedicine more feasible and practical. Telemedicine is not only helpful for providing care to citizens in rural communities, it is also very helpful for physicians who are treating patients with complicated health issues. HB 2254 clearly defines telehealth and telecommunications as it applies to the practice of medicine. HB 2254 provides for a standard of care and a physician-patient relationship which is the same regardless of the method or mode of providing health care. Both of these provisions are essential for patient safety.

We encourage the committee to support HB 2254.

Thank you.