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**TO:** Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

**FROM:** Sam Antonios, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer  
Via Christi Health

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 2169

**DATE:** February 14, 2017

Good morning to you all. My name is Dr. Sam Antonios with Via Christi Health in Wichita, Kansas. Via Christi is the largest healthcare system in our state and serves Kansas through our 10 owned or co-owned hospitals, physician clinics, and outpatient ancillary and retail (home based services).

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2169, which addresses a number of the administrative challenges we currently are experiencing with KanCare.

While we support SB 69 as currently drafted, we believe the following two amendments would even provide more standardization across the MCOs, while further reducing the administrative burden of the program.

What we are experiencing are unfair policies that are holding the hospitals accountable for factors outside of our control. Physicians make discharge decisions based on best clinical judgment and patients often lack outpatient resources (e.g. no Health Homes for patients with serious mental illnesses or chronic conditions) which may lead to readmissions that can occur days or weeks after they are discharged.

We are also experiencing a disproportionate number of audits that second guess physician judgment and diagnoses leading to significant administrative burdens with appeals and a substantial backlog under fair hearing process.

We propose the following two amendments to the bill:

**Amend Section 1(c) by adding following subsections (3) and (4):**

- (3) Retrospective utilization review of readmissions that establishes the standard that such reviews are not allowed for recipients of medical assistance who are readmitted as an**