



Testimony
Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee
Presented by Yi Liao
On behalf of
Genoa, a QoL Healthcare Company
February 16, 2017

Chairman Hawkins, Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Yi Liao and on behalf of Genoa, a QoL Healthcare Company (Genoa), thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2206, the Kansas Telehealth Legislation.

Genoa Telepsychiatry is the nation's leading provider of telepsychiatry services to the mental health and addictions treatment community. We understand the unique and special needs of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Our Telepsychiatry division employs 180 physicians nationally and 6 in Kansas. Currently, we offer services inside 2 Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), and one Federally Qualified Health Center in the state.

Furthermore, Genoa also operates approximately 350 pharmacies nationally and 12 in Kansas. These are full service pharmacies located inside CMHCs that offer confidential, discreet, and convenient ways to fill prescriptions.

Genoa is dedicated to serving people with mental illness and addictions, who unfortunately struggle to live independently in our communities. By improving access to psychiatric services, we can help ensure that our patients live as healthy and productive members of society. House Bill 2206 will help accomplish this goal by creating parity between medicine and telemedicine.

We believe that mental health is underserved in rural Kansas. The majority of psychiatrists are located in Wichita, Lawrence, Topeka, and Kansas City. In the 44 states where we operate, Telepsychiatry has proven effective in bridging this gap and providing much needed, convenient psychiatric services to this population. Kansas Medicaid and Medicare already see the need for telehealth service and offer telehealth as a benefit. We believe Kansas residents should not be treated differently for simply using a telemedicine service.

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this highly important issue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely, Yi Liao
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