



To: House Committee on Health and Human Services
From: The Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA)

Honorable Rep. Hawkins and Committee Members,

My name is Terry Collins and I am the Legislative Chair for the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA). Thank you for the opportunity to represent them here today as neutral with a recommendation on HB 2512.

- KASEA, the United School Administrators-Kansas, and the Kansas Association of School Boards all believe that HB 2512 is necessary and does establish parity between in-person and telemedicine-delivered therapy services. We also believe these same services should be extended to health care service providers licensed by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) within the school setting.
- Many of you are aware of the shortages of professionals in education including speech therapists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Extending the definition of “health care provider” in this bill, will close a large gap in services provided to children with handicapping conditions across Kansas.
- As providers who deliver health care services through the use of telemedicine, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists will maintain the same licensure and certification standards as providers of in-person services.
- Therapy services provided through telemedicine or telehealth should be treated as equivalent services for purposes of reimbursement within the public school setting.
- Research shows students who receive telemedicine services have done better or equal to those who have received in-person services
- On behalf of the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators, the United School Administrators-Kansas and the Kansas Association of School Boards, I strongly encourage you to add school based health services to the definition of “Health Care Provider” in the bill.

Terry Collins, Ed.S.
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