

KCA
www.kscounseling.org

PRESIDENT
Kristin Wright
2212 Eisenhower Dr.
Clay Center, KS 67432
785-632-0444
kristinwright@usd379.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Andrew Secor
21800 Lincoln Terrace
Spring Hill, KS 66083
913-406-7232
apsecor@mnu.edu

PAST PRESIDENT
Val Beikmann
416 N Concord
Minneapolis, KS 67467
785-392-2565
vbeikmann@usd239.org

SECRETARY
Mistie Knox
127 2nd Rd.
Clyde, KS 66938
785-614-2814
miknox@usd224.com

TREASURER
James Costello
1717 SW Stone Crest Dr.
Topeka, KS 66615
620-481-1006
jcostell@emporia.edu

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kim Urenda
10116 West 86th Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66212
913-226-2085
kca.urenda@gmail.com



"A Branch of the American Counseling Association"

Testimony before the
House Health and Human Services Committee
By
Andrew Secor
President-Elect, Kansas Counseling Association
February 1, 2018

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

This letter is written on behalf of the Kansas Counseling Association (KCA). The KCA represents professional counselors throughout the State of Kansas serving in various professional settings. As a branch of the American Counseling Association (ACA), KCA is committed to the ethical practice of telemedicine (distance counseling) as outlined in the 2014 ACA *Code of Ethics*. The ACA *Code of Ethics* addresses the ethical mandate professional counselors must follow to provide competent and ethical telemedicine (distance counseling) services.

The practice of telemedicine (distance counseling) continues to evolve and many practitioners have taken advantage of the opportunity to serve a wider range of clientele. Kansas, being a rural state, has many citizens who are unable to access services due to distance or have limited options for behavioral health providers due to their location. The establishment of the Kansas telemedicine act provides expectations for practitioners who desire to practice distance counseling by establishing legal requirements, which require providers to align with existing privacy laws and professional best practices. The provisions in HB 2512 align with several ethical expectations from the ACA, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Proper credentialing,
- Maintenance of records
- Technology and practice location expectations,
- Adherence to confidentiality/privacy practice in accordance with state and federal law, and
- Emergency procedures

Professional counselors recognize that the therapeutic relationship is no longer limited to face-to-face, in-person interactions, and that advances in technology offer new opportunities to reach the public. The Kansas Counseling Association supports the provisions in HB 2512 so long as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC's) and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC's) remain included in the bill as currently stated under the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board provision for Licensed Mental Healthcare Professionals. The passage of HB 2512 would afford many Kansas residents access to quality healthcare services on par with in-person mental health services and would enhance consumer protection by establishing standards for telemedicine services.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Wright
KCA President

Andrew Secor
KCA President-Elect
KCA Mental Health Legislative and Advocacy Chair

The Kansas Counseling Association will not knowingly engage in activities that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or age.