

## KANSAS HEARING SOCIETY, Inc.

*Irene Wagner,  
Au.D.,*

*Executive Director*

*2812 E. Menlo,  
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***To Whom it May Concern,***

***This Letter is in support of HB 2021 by Representative Kiegerl. Our membership is comprised of both hearing instrument specialists and audiologists who dispense hearing aids in Kansas.***

***Personally, I have been in practice for 42 years. Our Kansas constituents have suffered over these years by not having a hearing aid insurance benefit. Every week, we see patients who could benefit from hearing aids, but cannot afford them, even if it's an entry level or basic hearing instrument. A young couple who both work and have health insurance but with a combined Income of \$51,000.00 and two children suddenly learn that both the father and the oldest son need hearing aids. Without a hearing aid benefit from the insurance, hearing aids will not happen for this family. An elderly individual with medicare and secondary insurance is on a fixed income and just cannot afford the amplification he needs to be able to communicate with his family, friends and caregivers. I wish I could tell you that our Kansas residents never encountered a financial hardship to purchase hearing aids and that their insurance benefits had a hearing aid provision to assist in the purchase of hearing aids. Our Kansas Hearing Society Members (all 183), fully endorse the passage of this bill to make basic communication possible when the precious sense of hearing is compromised.***

***With Respect,***

***Irene Wagner, Au.D., CCC—A***

***Irene Wagner, Executive Director of the Kansas Hearing Society, Inc.***

***John Lang, BC HHS, President of KHS***

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