



Tom Bell
President and CEO

TO: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

FROM: Chad Austin, Senior Vice President Government Relations
Deborah F. Stern, Senior Vice President Clinical Services & General Counsel

DATE: February 16, 2017

RE: Senate Bill 85

The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition** of Senate Bill 85. The proposed legislation focuses on certain requirements associated with withholding life-sustaining measures from patients under the age of 18.

KHA is unaware of any issues that have arisen in any Kansas hospital, or other care setting involving the withholding of treatment, for patients under the age of majority, without the knowledge and consent of a parent, or guardian.

Providers and parents are expected to, and do discuss the treatment provided to a minor child in a health care setting. Any life-and-death decision involving a minor is discussed between the provider and the parent, or guardian and undertaken with the utmost care and deliberation.

While we agree that parents and guardians should always be involved in the treatment goals and care provided to their minor child, mandating that parents sign documents permitting a provider to provide evidence-based care, i.e., the accepted standard of care that they are trained to provide, is unnecessary.

While we are opposed to SB 85 in its current form, we are aware that new language is being drafted by various stakeholders and we hope that these amendments will alleviate our concerns with this legislation.

Kansas does not need to adopt Senate Bill 85 as currently written and KHA respectfully requests that you oppose this proposed legislation.