



January 19, 2017

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A Licensed Community Mental Health Center  
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TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

RE: SB32 and Psychiatry

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee;

My name is Walter Hill and I am the Executive Director of High Plains Mental Health Center. High Plains provides comprehensive mental health services to residents in a 19,000 square mile rural and frontier region of Northwest Kansas. A critically important resource to serve our 5000 plus patients in our region each year, is the availability of qualified Psychiatrists, both Adult and Child trained. I have been involved in recruitment and retention of physician psychiatry staff for 25 years and have found that incentives such as loan repayment programs are very helpful to attract and retain quality psychiatrists to serve patients in our healthcare shortage area.

I would like to encourage the committee to support SB32 efforts to include psychiatrists in state incentives for physicians in order to assist in the recruitment of these essential resources for our region and other similar regions in Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Hill".

Walter Hill, MS, LMLP, LCP  
Executive Director

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