



Tom Bell
President and CEO

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee
FROM: Chad Austin, Sr. Vice President Government Relations
Deborah F. Stern, Sr. Vice President Clinical Services and General Counsel
DATE: February 1, 2017
RE: Senate Bill 68 - Caregiver Act

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 68, which instructs hospitals to perform certain functions related to patient caregivers.

SB 68, which appears to require new ways of treating and communicating with patients and their caregivers, is duplicative of the many standards and regulations already in place in Kansas hospitals. These include the Medicare/Medicaid Conditions of Participation and The Joint Commission standards for hospital licensure. Persons not closely associated with the health care field may not be aware that these hospital standards exist.

In the past, KHA has met with representatives of AARP regarding potential legislation and we fully understand their position of wanting to legislate the care that caregivers receive related to the discharge planning process. We surveyed our hospital members and they strongly stated their desire to meet the many standards required of them without the need for legislative action.

KHA has offered to partner with AARP to provide education to our hospitals and reiterate the importance of providing thorough discharge care instructions to patients, and their caregivers. We have also discussed the important concepts of this legislation with our members at KHA District Meetings and with our Council on Quality and Patient Safety.

In summary, while we understand the position of those supporting SB 68, our members strongly assert that the requirements of SB 68 are already part of the standards and regulations hospitals operate under.

For the reasons provided herein, KHA requests that you oppose this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Senate Public Health and Welfare

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Date 2/1/17

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