



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
From: Steve Denny, Chairman  
Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals  
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 316  
Date: February 8, 2018

My name is Steve Denny. I currently serve as clinical director of Four County Mental Health located in Independence, KS. I am submitting these remarks on behalf of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals. We are a trade association comprised of a mix of providers in Kansas communities, who are dedicated to treating and preventing and treating substance use disorders.

I am here to express support for SB 316. KAAP believes that tobacco use disorders have been minimized throughout the history of addiction treatment. However, the consequences of untreated tobacco and nicotine addiction have consequences that are well documented and have been proven to be cause a myriad of health issues over the course of time.

We believe that current addiction treatment providers possess the skills and ability to help people with tobacco use disorders recover from addiction. Individual counseling and tobacco cessation programs will be effective tools in reducing the impact of tobacco addition on many Kansans if appropriate funding mechanisms are put in place. In particular, it is important that providers receive reimbursement for treating tobacco related disorders just as they would for other substance use disorders eligible for KanCare programs. KAAP supports NAMI in their initiatives to reduce the impact of tobacco use disorders on Kansas communities and citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.