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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Ways and Means

SB 94

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My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding SB 94.

KAOM is in support of SB 94 which amends KSA Supp. 40-3213 requiring MCOs and Medicare provider organizations to pay a fee to the commissioner. Specifically, “fees collected would be used to restore any reductions initiated during calendar year 2016 to provider reimbursement rates for state Medicaid services...”

The 4% cut to Medicaid providers lowers an already barely sustainable reimbursement for health care providers who participate in KanCare. The situation is exacerbated by the failure of the legislature to expand Medicaid in Kansas. It is unreasonable to expect health care providers to continue to provide health care to Medicaid recipients when their reimbursement is continually reduced. When KanCare was implemented, physicians were assured their reimbursement would not be reduced and therefore supported the legislation. KAOM believes the 4% reduction in reimbursement is a betrayal of the trust the physician community placed in the administration and legislature to hold their reimbursement harmless.

It is already difficult to recruit physicians to Kansas. Kansas is gaining a reputation as an unfriendly state when it comes to support for the state’s health care infrastructure. SB 94 will help alleviate some of those concerns.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have questions.

Thank you.