



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Commissioner Larry Jones
In Support of Senate Bill 186
March 22, 2017**

Member Counties

Barber
Barton
Clark
Ellis
Finney
Ford
Gove
Grant
Gray
Hamilton
Harper
Haskell
Hodgeman
Kearny
Kiowa
Lane
Logan
Meade
Morton
Ness
Norton
Rawlins
Rice
Russell
Rush
Scott
Seward
Sheridan
Sherman
Stanton
Stevens
Thomas
Trego
Wallace
Wichita

Chairperson McGinn and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today in support of Senate Bill 186. I am Larry Jones, and serve as president of Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) which is a non-partisan organization, established in 1980, and comprised of elected county commissioners representing the collective interests of 35 rural Kansas counties. Thank you for allowing KLPG to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 186.

The statewide Kansas EMS system offers outstanding service to all of the State's population and provides emergency transportation which is a vital element of delivery of healthcare services. Senate Bill 186 will provide the necessary enabling legislation required to create a State Plan Amendment (SPA) which would allow for the ambulance services that provide Ground Emergency Transportation (GEMT) to receive supplemental reimbursement when a patient is transported by ambulance.

Rural counties have very limited financial resources and for most of our member counties, their tax bases continue to diminish. GEMT is a voluntary program and for those counties that choose to participate, the supplemental reimbursement would be very helpful to counties as they are facing the challenging task of providing excellent emergency transportation service at the best possible cost to the local taxpayers and maintaining county budgets.

The 2016 and 2017 KLPG Legislative Platform has included support for enabling legislation to create a State Plan Amendment (SPA).

Thank you for allowing me to enter written testimony and I urge you to support Senate Bill 186.