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Written Testimony

Date: March 10, 2020

To: The Honorable John Barker, Chairman
House Committee on Federal & State Affairs

From: David Johnston, President Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA)

RE: HB 2723, Medical Oversight of Emergency Medical Service Providers

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is supportive of HB 2723 including amendments submitted by the Kansas Medical Society. The proposed legislative represent a collaborative effort by Kansas Board of EMS to remedy existing statutory issues in the medical oversight of Emergency Medical Services. The process to develop the legislation was transparent and inclusive of Kansas EMS stakeholders.

Kansas EMS agencies are required to have medical protocol to provide care when they do not have direct contact with a physician. The majority of EMS care is delivered in Kansas is by medical protocol. Each EMS agency is required to have a physician for medical oversight in the form of a medical director. Currently under state statutes an EMS agency’s medical director cannot authorize the medical protocols to be used by that agency. Protocol approval authority only exists with local medical societies, local hospitals or with a state medical advisory committee (MAC).

Current law is problematic because many communities do not have an active medical society, some local hospitals have been hesitant to approve protocols and the state MAC does not have processes to approve protocols. The proposed changes by HB2723 would fix the current situation by allowing agency medical directors to develop and approve medical protocols. The KEMSA governing board agrees that local medical oversight by an EMS agency’s medical director is preferential and HB2723 aligns the law to the reality of current practice.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Dave Johnston, KEMSA President