

**Testimony on House Bill 2201
Regarding Updating Statutory References**

House Committee on Health and Human Services

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Chairman Landwehr and members of the committee, my name is Jennifer VandeVelde, and I serve as the Director for the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), which houses the Tuberculosis (TB) Program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide supporting testimony relative to House Bill 2198.

As a result of 2012 Executive Reorganization Order No. 41, there was language inadvertently changed which granted the responsibility of overseeing TB cases and contact investigations to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. The Tuberculosis program has resided in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment since its inception as one of the very first public health programs in Kansas. We strongly support this bill, as it corrects the placement of legal authority for managing TB cases in Kansas.

The Tuberculosis Program, under the guidance of Phil Griffin, has seen dramatic reductions in the number of active TB disease cases in recent years. This is partly due to the TB program's close proximity to both the Disease Intervention Specialists (who assist in contact investigations) and Epidemiological Services (who assist in determining root cause analysis and prevention) at no added expense to the TB Program. We strongly feel that the TB Program is strategically placed within the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention for success, and it should remain at KDHE, with the corrected legal authority.