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Opponent Oral Testimony

Date: February 22, 2019

To: The Honorable Don Hineman, Chairman
House Committee on Rural Revitalization

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

RE: HB 2366, Apparatus operators to provide ground ambulance transportation

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is in opposition of HB 2366 as submitted. The proposed legislation represents a good faith effort to address isolated incidents but could have far reaching consequences to the patients served by Kansas EMS agencies.

Further discussion on addressing the transport needs of rural Kansas hospitals is paramount to understand the overarching needs of the communities. The proposed legislation is reactionary without addressing underlining issues of EMS funding and appropriate utilization of transport resources.

KEMSA has two points of concern with HB 2366. The point of concern is to determine the extent of the issue. How often are facilities not able to transfer patients due to EMS staffing issues? Are they just very isolated incidents that can be addressed local?

The second point of concern is that the staffing levels do not have to be addressed in statute. Staffing requirement for EMS agencies are already addressed in Kansas Board of EMS Regulation. KAR 109-2-6 has been adjusted several times over the years to address concern brought forward over staffing requirements. KEMSA has hosted stakeholder meetings in the past to solicit statewide input into those change and we would be happy to host them again. It is the belief of KEMSA that statute changes are could be too limiting when they could be more promptly addressed in regulation.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully

Dave Johnston, KEMSA President