



KANSAS EMS ASSOCIATION

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Unity Is Strength

To: Senate Public Health Committee

From: Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA)

RE: Support for SB 320

Date: February 13, 2020

KEMSA supports the passage of SB 320 to improve the ability of EMS personnel as well as our partners in the public safety aspect of EMS to access critical information upon the rare occasions of personnel suffering from an exposure to patient blood or body fluids creating the possibility of the EMS provider contracting a serious disease.

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is the professional association representing the paramedics, EMTs and ambulance services serving the citizens of Kansas. KEMSA works on various regulatory and legislative matters as well as conferences and educational programs.

Our partners in Law Enforcement recognized a problem with the present Kansas law. SB 320 corrects the problem by clarifying what serious diseases other than AIDS can be considered under that provision of the law.

Despite the prevalent use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by EMS and other first responder personnel, occasionally emergency personnel do sustain an exposure to the blood and body fluids of the patients we serve. Kansas law allows for the testing of that source patient to determine if they have a serious disease. The Kansas law is a balance between the patients' rights and the need to protect the EMS providers and first responders while they perform their duties.

SB 320 will deal with an unintended complication in the current law creating a limitation to only consider AIDS and not the myriad of other serious diseases.

KEMSA appreciates your interest in correcting this aspect of Kansas law.

Scott Stueven, Paramedic

Butler County EMS
KEMSA Member