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February 15, 2019

Mr. Jay Hall
Kansas Association of Counties
300 SW 8th Ave., Ste. 300
Topeka, KS 66603

hall@kansascountries.org

RE: Senate Bill 118

Dear Mr. Hall:

I am the county counselor of Greenwood County and am writing on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. We want to express our full support and endorsement of Senate Bill 118. As County Commissioners, in a rural area with limited resources, it is vitally important to our community to have access to health care. Providing health care access to a rural area with limited population has become exceptionally difficult given the nature of the medical industry and how medicare and medicaid reimbursements are determined. Despite these difficulties it is still a necessary service to be provided to our residents. With that being said, a provision limiting the liability of the County for debt obligations incurred by a county hospital would be a vital component to enable the County to continue to provide this service without fear of bankrupting the entire governmental entity. The hospital and Board of County Commissioners are two separate legal entities able to sue and be sued in their own right and the obligation of one should not be imputed to the other.

We therefore endorse as strongly as possible Senate Bill 118 and that our citizens be allowed continued access, in their own community without a fear of jeopardizing all other governmental services that are provided by the County.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts of moving Senate Bill 118 towards passage.

Yours truly,


Paul E. Dean

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