



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CARING FOR KANSANS

May 13, 2020

Representative Patton and member of the House Judiciary Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for the **Health Care Provider COVID Liability Protections Bill**, presented to this committee by the Kansas Medical Society.

Family physicians are on the frontline of medical care and the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a unique challenge to all of us in primary care. We have been tasked with keeping our patients safe by not unnecessarily exposing them to the risk of COVID-19, while caring for patients needing our care with acute issues, chronic illness, and preventative care needs. In this unprecedented time, it is extremely important to protect health care providers who are doing their best to protect their patients.

Liability protection due to COVID-19 for front line family medicine physicians is essential to continuing the aim of access to care during this public health emergency. Many of our colleagues have been burdened by increased work and decreased revenue during this pandemic, leading to concerns of their ability to keep their essential primary care clinics open in this environment.

A lawsuit *that they could not have prevented* would lead to further insecurities with their clinics and access to health care in our Kansas communities would be further inhibited. The KMS bill would protect family physicians from potential litigation that may be attributable to COVID-19 and, again, beyond their control.

This liability protection would ensure that family physicians will continue to care for those in their respective communities without the fear of litigation in these unpredictable times.

We thank you for allowing us to submit this letter of support and urge the Legislature to pass **Health Care Provider COVID Liability Protections Bill**.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Beard, MD, FAAFP
President

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, and student members across the state. The mission of KAFP is to promote access to, and excellence in, health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.

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