



February 8, 2021

Representative Troy Waymaster
House Appropriations Committee
Kansas State Capitol - 300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: House Bill No. 2174 Proponent Written Testimony

Chairman Rep. Waymaster and Committee Members—

The City of Winfield supports the development of a Rural Hospital Innovation Grant Program managed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as proposed in HB 2174.

Creating additional opportunities for rural hospitals to leverage private partnerships for the advancement of community healthcare priorities would be a welcome economic development tool for small towns like Winfield.

We also suggest and support an amendment to the proposed legislation **allowing cities to be the direct jurisdiction applying for the use of the grant funds on behalf of our local hospitals.** Competition of hospitals within counties, before reaching the statewide review, creates another layer of bureaucracy that will only serve to slow these dollars down.

For years, Winfield community members and businesses have pledged monies to support the growth of our local hospital. Having a way to leverage that support would further assist our efforts at growing our local healthcare sector for the future.

HB 2174 is a competitive offering in the fight against rural to urban migration that has become evident across the state.

Thank you for your attention and we wish you success this legislative session in considering the many issues before you. We appreciate the opportunity today to provide testimony in support of HB 2174.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taggart Wall", written over a horizontal line.

Taggart Wall
City Manager

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