



KANSAS ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  

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**Testimony: HB 2066 – Expedited Occupational Licensing**  
**House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee**

**January 19, 2021**

**By: Chad Johanning, MD, FAAFP, President (Written only)**

**Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to present these written comments to you today. The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) is supportive of expedited licensure for veterans and military spouses, *to the extent that the state's licensing standards, as well as the safety and protection of Kansas's citizens, are not diminished.*

KAFP appreciates the efforts made to improve provisions related to physicians and the Kansas Board of Healing Arts (KBOHA) from last year's HB 2506, particularly the requiring of a *substantially equivalent standard* for licensees that better ensures the safety and protection of patients in our state. While we are not opposed to the provisions related to KBOHA, our analysis of the bill creates concerns significant enough that we must **oppose HB 2066** at this time.

Before moving on, we want to acknowledge the delicate balance that necessarily exists between regulation and government intrusion, and the primary role of government to protect the health and safety of its citizens. If there is to be a tipping of the balance in the area of health care and medicine, we believe it must fall on the side of protecting the health and safety of Kansans. To that end, we raise these two issues:

- (Page 2, Line 40) By striking the language that a licensing body authorize licensure based on standards that "are equivalent to" and amending to say "a similar scope of practice," this bill would compromise and/or diminish the sovereign integrity of the State of Kansas to provide for the health and safety of its citizens. Licensing standards for the practice of medicine in Kansas should not be subverted to those established in or by another state.

We recommend either maintaining the current language or amending to say "a substantially equivalent standard," as used in the Board of Healing Arts section later in the bill.

- (Page 1, Line 9 and thereafter where references to "applicant" are found) By requiring that an "applicant," as defined by the provisions of this bill, "shall" receive a license, registration or certification within an expedited time frame, an excessive burden is placed on licensing bodies that could adversely impact patient protection and safety in Kansas.

Licensing, registration or certification of health care professionals must continue to be determined with careful consideration and due diligence by Kansas's licensing agencies, and not subjected to overly-expedited timeframes.

While KAFP understands the spirit of this bill, we believe the particular nature of health care delivery and the need to protect the health and safety of patients in Kansas sets health care professions apart from other professions covered in this legislation.

Although we cannot fully support HB 2066 as currently written, *KAFP does stand ready to work with this committee in a way that maintains Kansas's strong public safety and patient protection standards, while still reasonably expediting occupational licenses for non-residents.*

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians:

KAFP represents over 1,820 active, resident, student and life members across the state. *The mission of KAFP is to support and serve family physicians of Kansas as they advance the health of Kansans.* 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.