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To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Travis R. Oller, DC  
Executive Director  
Kansas Chiropractic Association

Date: February 9, 2020

Subject: HB 2206; Updating certain definitions, referral to specialty services and coordination of care provisions in the Kansas telemedicine act

### **Neutral Testimony**

Chairwoman Landwehr and other members of this committee I appreciate the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2206.

HB 2206 would amend and repeal portions of K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-2,211 and 40-2,212. Currently, K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 40-2,211 through 40-2,216 are known as the Kansas Telemedicine Act.

Collectively, the Kansas Telemedicine Act sets out the requirements for telemedicine services and requires insurance coverage of telemedicine services when provided by a “healthcare provider” as defined within the Act.

Our concern is with the definition of “healthcare provider.” The Act, as well as HB 2206 define “healthcare provider” as:

physician, licensed physician assistant, licensed advanced practice registered nurse or person licensed, registered, certified or otherwise authorized to practice by the behavioral sciences regulatory board

While provider groups contend that the Kansas Telemedicine Act is essentially an insurance coverage act that determines which provider types insurance must cover for services delivered via telemedicine, some insurance providers have decided that the Act limits who can provide telemedicine services to those defined as “healthcare providers.”

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, all provider types in Kansas have been safely delivering services via telemedicine, thus reducing risk of exposure for our patients and the public. These healthcare providers include Doctors of Chiropractic, Physical Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, and others.

We understand that the Legislature has a process to follow when adding services that must be covered by insurance companies including approval through KDHE and being



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added to the State Health Plan this enable insurance companies to adequately determine the cost associated with the new services. However, telehealth is not a new service, just a new delivery method. Telemedicine visits are typically replacements for in-person visits, not in addition to in-person visits and should be cost neutral.

While most Doctors of Chiropractic provide physical medicine services including Chiropractic Manipulative Therapy that are not deliverable via telemedicine we also provide a number of services that are deliverable via telemedicine including therapeutic exercises/instruction, lifestyle modification instruction, and nutritional services.

We ask the House Health and Human Services Committee to add all providers licensed by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts when providing services within their scope of practice to HB 2206.

Travis R. Oller, DC  
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