



February 8, 2021

Chairman Patton and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2153, which increases the level of felony for mistreatment of a dependent adult, if the adult is living in an adult care home.

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) always supports the protection of rights, health, safety and welfare of older and dependent adults receiving long term supports and services. Residents in adult care homes and other settings have particular vulnerabilities to intentional harm and neglect. They are vulnerable because they are physically or mentally frail, disabled, suffering from dementia, or recovering from a hospitalization or illness. The adult care home or other service provider is in the special role of guarding their health, safety and welfare. Crimes against the person, including battery or rape or confinement or deprivation of services can occur and are devastating. It is a special cruelty when the caregiver is also the abuser.

We hope that increasing the level of felony for perpetrators of mistreatment or neglect upon those who live in adult care homes will prevent such harm to others. We urge your support of HB 2153.

Margaret Farley, Executive Director - On behalf of Board of Directors and Members

KABC is a statewide not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of long-term care for elders in nursing and assisted facilities and in-home. KABC is not a provider of government funded services. For 46 years KABC's role has been as a resource and advocate for older adults and families and as a resource to policy makers on aging and quality care issues. KABC provides consumer education information and tracks and reports on quality care performance issues.