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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
In Support of HB2620
February 10, 2022**

Chairman Patton and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2620. The persistence of acts occurring within medical facilities, especially in emergency rooms is troubling. Our health care workers are under significant stress as it is, without having to deal with people physically attacking them and physically interfering with their ability to provide medical care to the sick and injured.

We believe the approach to these crimes presented in HB2620 is reasonable and will send a clear message to the people who act out against health care workers.

The bill will create a new crime of interference with the conduct of a hospital, including an aggravated crime when the offender is in possession of a weapon. This is consistent with existing statutes for interference with the conduct of public business in public buildings and aggravated interference with the conduct of public business (KSA 21-5922).

In addition, it enhances the penalty for misdemeanor battery of a health care worker from a class B misdemeanor to a class A misdemeanor. This is the equivalent of the enhancement for battery to a school employee.

We urge you to move HB2620 favorably for passage.

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