



February 24, 2021

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 238

Chair Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am Stuart Little, President of the Behavioral Health Association of Kansas (BHAK), the State's trade organization dedicated solely to substance use disorders (SUD) treatment and prevention providers seeking integrated behavioral health care. BHAK believes that true integrated behavioral health means access and funding for mental illness and substance use disorder treatment without regard to where our consumers seek services in the publicly funded behavioral health system.

We support House Bill 238 making changes to the supervision requirements to the professions the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. Our members employ professional staff at the bachelor and clinical level from several professions for whom the BSRB is their regulatory entity. We have reviewed the proposed changes and welcome the reduction in supervision hours. We believe the supervision changes in the bill finally place all licensed professions on equal footing.

Workforce is a critical issue in the behavioral health field, and in substance use disorder treatment particularly. Equity in regulatory treatment is critical to facilitating employer efforts to recruit and cultivate new employees as well as secure out of state skilled employees who move to Kansas. With this bill, the professions will be treated equally in their supervision requirements.

We thank the BSRB for the support and encourage the committee to advance the bill.

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