



March 23, 2021

Chairman Hildebrand and members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare: thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2114 / Senior Services Task Force.

Kansas Advocates for Better Care supports the need for a formalized task force to review areas of concern to older adults and provide direction for senior services. Such a review of senior needs and services is long overdue, and especially with the burgeoning of the aging population in Kansas. There are serious issues that affect the hundreds of thousands of older Kansans who need, and will need in the near future, long term supports and services and specialized healthcare services. Many older adults are at risk for financial, physical and emotional abuse. Older adults and family caregivers are faced with a confusing and complicated system when they need long-term care at home or in a facility.

We appreciate the efforts of the House Committee on Children and Seniors to add a representative from the Alzheimer's Association and a consumer of Kansas senior services appointed by the Silver Haired Legislature. Both of these members will broaden the perspective of the task force and strengthen the voice of older consumers and their families.

To assure the takes a 360-degree view of aging issues in Kansas, we would ask for the addition of a study topic related to long term supports and services provided in the community, including corresponding discussions related to supporting community transitioning of persons out of nursing homes and other congregate settings similar to the previous Money Follows the Person program. This task force has a unique and very important opportunity to strategically build a long-range plan for serving the needs of our older adults and persons with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2114. We ask the committee to include the study of community supports and services available for older adults to the list of study topics.

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

KABC is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of long-term care for older adults in nursing and assisted facilities and in-home.

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