

To: Senator Hilderbrand and Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Re: Proponent for HB 2151  
By: Secretary Laura Howard  
Date: March 23, 2021

House Bill 2151 would create a Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator position, appointed by the Attorney General, for the purposes of supporting multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in each judicial district that would coordinate investigations of elder and dependent adult abuse. These MDTs would be able to work with local jurisdictions to identify ways to strengthen policies and procedures in the response to abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders or dependent adults.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services supports HB 2151, as introduced. The bill provides opportunities for strengthened statewide coordination of elder and dependent adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation investigations, and at the same time, addresses the needs of local jurisdictions. Multidisciplinary teams are a very effective means to bring expertise from different disciplines together to provide a variety of perspectives and resources to address complex issues. The use of MDTs can lead to new practices, policies, and innovations to improve elder and dependent adult abuse investigations and services throughout Kansas. The routine review of elder and dependent adult cases will allow the state to better identify and address systemic problems and challenges and provide for comprehensive solutions across the state.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2151 because it will lead to innovation, collaboration and better services for seniors and dependent adults across Kansas.