



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Audrey Dunkel, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: March 16, 2020

Re: House Bill 2126

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2126 on behalf of our 122 community hospital members. It may seem unusual for the hospital association to speak to a bill addressing nursing facilities; however, this bill impacts a quarter of our members who operate both the hospital and the nursing facility in their community. All are non-profit or governmental facilities dedicated to providing care from the cradle to the grave in rural communities across Kansas.

As you can imagine, this disparate treatment regarding liability is a concern for our members. They struggle with the idea that even though they provide the same standard of infection prevention in their nursing facility as in their hospital, they have not been given the same protection under the law during the pandemic. It has forced many of them to place more strict infection control measures, like limiting visitors for residents, out of concern for the limited protection from liability they received under 2020 HB 2016.

We have attached a letter from one of these hospitals, Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems. We asked their CEO to share how this disparate treatment of nursing facilities has affected their facility, but more importantly, how it has affected their residents as they struggle with the limitations this policy has forced on them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our members' perspective.

