



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For further information:**

Contact - Cindy Samuelson

Mobile - (785) 249-1727

[csamuelson@kha-net.org](mailto:csamuelson@kha-net.org)

### **Health Care Clinicians Advocate for Worker Protections**

#### *Kansas Needs to Protect Our Health Care Workers*

(April 25, 2023) – More than 150 health care professionals who live and/or work in the Kansas City area have signed onto [a letter](#) that calls on the legislature to take action to provide additional protections for Kansas health care workers who are facing continued threats in the course of their work.

“At a time when health care is facing a staffing crisis, we hope the legislature will prioritize finalizing legislation that provides protections for our state’s first responders serving in health care settings,” said Chad Austin, president and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association. “A bill that increases penalties of assault and battery of a health care worker and creates the crime of interference with providing patients with health care, has passed the house. We hope the bill will be finalized before the Kansas Legislature completes their work for the 2023 session.”

[The letter from Kansas City health professionals](#) to lawmakers explains that similar policies have already been passed by surrounding states including Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma. The letter also highlights other states that have addressed these matters during their most recent sessions, including Georgia and Florida.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 239 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is: “Optimal Health for Kansans.”

###