



# K A N S A S

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

**Testimony on Home Health Agency Survey Cycle  
House Bill No. 2086  
to the  
House Health and Human Services Committee**

**by  
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Chairperson Morrison, I am pleased to appear before the House Committee on Health and Human Services to discuss an amendment to K.S.A. 65-5104. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment wishes to amend state law regarding survey frequency for licensed-only home health agencies to be consistent with federal Medicare requirements. This will increase the survey interval for licensed-only home health agency surveys from at least once every fifteen months to at least once every 36 months.

State law has followed federal law regarding survey frequency since enactment of state law in 1984. In 1992, state law was amended to the current 15-month cycle to parallel federal law. Federal law was amended several years ago to provide for a survey frequency of every 36 months.

This legislation would make it possible for surveyors' time to be used more efficiently. Survey workloads for licensed-only facilities continue to increase due to the continued growth in the number of facilities. KDHE is not currently able to meet the 15-month survey frequency with existing resources. Amending the law will make the state survey cycle consistent with federal requirements and minimize the need for additional survey staff.

K.S.A. 65-5105 authorizes additional surveys at the discretion of the Secretary. This provides for surveys to be conducted more frequently for agencies whose record suggests a more frequent cycle. KHDE would generally follow guidelines CMS uses for certified agencies to determine actual survey frequency for a specific agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. I will be happy to answer any questions.