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K A N S A S

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TESTIMONY

Health & Human Services Committee
House Bill 2153
By Kathy Greenlee, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
February 8, 2005

Chairman Morrison and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in favor of HB 2153. This technical clean-up bill has been introduced at the request of the Secretary of Aging and myself.

As you know, the 2003 legislature decided to move the nursing home inspection unit from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) to the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) effective July 1, 2003. This inspection unit, also known as the survey unit, now resides at KDOA.

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman is required by law to provide information to the nursing home survey unit. We provide information regarding

volunteer and regional staff visits to long-term care facilities, the types of cases we have worked and any ongoing concerns.

When the survey unit transfer was made, two ombudsman statutes were overlooked. K.S.A. 75-7306 and 75-7310 need to be amended to insert reference to the Secretary of Aging and remove reference to the Secretary of KDHE and Secretary of SRS.

I request that an amendment be made to the bill. On page 3, line 13, the references to the Secretary of KDHE and Secretary of SRS need to be removed. Prior to submitting this language to the legislature, KDHE, KDOA, SRS and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman all concurred with the proposed changes, including the strike through on page 3.

Thank you for your consideration of these technical changes to the current law.