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# KANSAS

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KANSAS BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Date: February 14, 2005  
To: Dr. Jim Morrison, Chair and Members  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
From: David Lake  
RE: HB 2211 Testimony

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, Thank You for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 2211. I can best describe my testimony this afternoon as "neutral" but leaning toward support. Almost three months ago now, in response to a situation that arose with a licensed ambulance service and the issue of a power of attorney, our agency's attorney produced a document as described in this bill. I have provided you with a copy of that document. At the time, we made it available to all interested parties by placing it on our webpage and mailing it to them if requested.

We have since made several public statements about the availability of the document and a recommendation on how it might be utilized. We have made it very clear that the document as developed is our attorney's "interpretation" of the specific legal documents that may be presented to EMS attendants in the field. We encourage them to be sure that the attorney who would represent them in any action has an opportunity to review the document and be allowed to provide his/her input into that interpretation.

Once that has been accomplished, time should be spent in educating all attendants of the service in those legal documents and the appropriate action to take when they are presented in the field. It will be most beneficial if they are given the "heads-up" and educated prior to being confronted, most likely at a very highly stressful time for everyone involved. I think it would be very beneficial, also, to provide training to the general public in these documents and what they can and cannot provide.

As a suggestion, we will be glad to see that copies of the document and suggestions for their use is sent to all licensed ambulance services in our State. As we are in the middle of a complete review of our agency's rules and regulations, perhaps at your direction we can promulgate a regulation requiring this document to be a part of the mandated paperwork they must carry on each licensed ambulance.

The Board is very supportive of educating the attendants of our State in the *proper* response to the patient's and patient's family requests. I make this suggestion merely as a method of accomplishing the intent of the bill while reducing the time spent on hearings and possible delays in implementation.

