



Thomas L. Bell  
President

**To: Health and Human Services Committee Members**

**From: Chad Austin  
Senior Director of Health Policy & Data**

**RE: Senate Bill 216**

**Date: March 16, 2005**

The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 216. While resources are often tight, Kansas community hospitals stand ready to support efforts to protect the public's health.

Outbreaks of contagious diseases have impacted our country in recent years. Many United States public health agencies, including those in Kansas, are preparing for these events. Table top disaster drills across the state have identified the need to clarify our statutes and regulations related to isolation and quarantine procedures. Senate Bill 216 gives Kansas public health officials the needed tools to protect the health of all its citizens when outbreaks of infectious disease strike.

Senate Bill 216 also allows for due process for those individuals impacted by the actions of public health officials and enables the administrative and legal process to manage any appeals that may arise. This bill also protects employees, or those who have an immediate family member placed in isolation or quarantined, from being discharged by their employer.

While there are still many unanswered questions regarding how isolation and quarantine procedures would be implemented and what the impact would be to our community hospitals, KHA is prepared to work with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment to address these issues and concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

