



Thomas L. Bell
President

To: House Health and Human Services Committee
From: Thomas L. Bell, President
Date: March 2005

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 254

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to support Senate Bill 254 which would enable Kansans to receive health care services in this state even if those services were ordered by a physician in another state.

This proposed amendment to K.S.A. 65-2872 would enable hospitals and health care providers to accept orders presented by a patient who been seen by a physician in another state. For example, under current law if a person is on vacation in Colorado and suffers a broken arm, any follow-up orders for physical therapy that are written by a Colorado physician cannot be honored in Kansas. Someone else traveling on their way across the country may have an order from their home physician to have weekly blood work drawn if they are taking anti-coagulants. Under current law, requiring these persons to see a Kansas physician and therefore duplicate the services that have already been provided or making a consumer jump through hoops to obtain a prescription from a Kansas doctor is a waste of medical resources and subjects them to needless expense.

Persons who live near our state borders should have the ability to see a physician in one state and be treated in a facility that is housed in another state. If a person lives in Missouri and sees their local physician but chooses to receive specialized treatment at the University of Kansas Hospital, they should be allowed to do so. By clarifying the current law, Kansas caregivers will no longer need to turn away patients who are unaware of the law and are stunned when told that Kansas hospitals cannot honor out-of-state medical orders. As stated in SB 254, through rules and regulations the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts will serve as the gatekeeper as to which services can be ordered from out-of-state practitioners.

For these reasons, the Kansas Hospital Association asks for your support of Senate Bill 254.

Kansas Hospital Association

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