

**Statement of the Kansas Medical Society on
SB 254; Concerning Out of State Physician Orders
House Health and Human Services Committee
March 21, 2005**

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to appear in support of SB 254, which amends the Healing Arts Act to make it possible for Kansas-based health care facilities to provide services, under specified circumstances, which are ordered by practitioners licensed in other states. Currently, a physician must be licensed in Kansas to give a valid medical order. The strict interpretation of that requirement has caused confusion and inconvenience for patients. This situation is particularly troublesome in the greater Kansas City area involving Missouri physicians ordering diagnostic or other procedures that their patients then want carried out in Kansas hospitals or diagnostic facilities.

SB 254 authorizes the Healing Arts Board to promulgate regulations identifying circumstances in which professional services may be performed in this state based on an order by a practitioner licensed in another state. The current regulatory framework has remained largely unchanged over the years, even though technology, communication, service delivery and patient mobility have all changed remarkably. This legislation allows us to identify and develop common-sense exceptions to the in-state licensure requirement, so that confusion and inconvenience are minimized, without undermining the valid structure of state-based licensure, which promotes accountability and quality assurance. Allowing the Board to develop regulations which can be updated as technology and service delivery continue to evolve, provides us with a reasonable, flexible approach to dealing with this issue. We urge you to report SB 254, as amended, favorably. Thank you.