

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS
Governor

PHYLLIS GILMORE
Executive Director



712 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3817
(785) 296-3240
FAX (785) 296-3112
www.ksbsrb.org

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD

**HOUSE TESTIMONY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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SB 470

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 470. I am Phyllis Gilmore the Executive Director of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB).

The BSRB is the licensing board for most of the state's mental health professionals, the doctoral level psychologists, the master level psychologists, the clinical psychotherapists, the bachelor, master and clinical level social workers, the master and clinical level professional counselors, and the master and clinical level marriage and family therapists. Additionally, some of the drug and alcohol counselors are registered with the board, although most of them are certified with SRS at the present time.

SB 470 amends the practice acts for our four master level professions to restrict the issuing of temporary licenses. These changes are being requested by unanimous vote of the board. Each profession considered what was best for itself and those ideas were presented to and voted on by the full board.

SB 470 would shorten the length of time an individual may hold a temporary license and It disallows renewal or reissuing of a temporary license except for extenuating circumstances.

We are correcting the current situation of individuals receiving a temporary license, not sitting for the examination and then renewing their temporary license, sometimes repeatedly. Under current law this is possible. Individuals also sit for the exam close to the end of the licensure cycle, fail the exam, and then renew their license. SB 470 would no longer allow individuals to practice indefinitely on a temporary license.

This does not limit the number of times an individual may take the exam, only how long one may hold the license and the number of times an individual may receive a temporary license.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. I will be happy to stand for questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Gilmore

