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Written Testimony

Date: February 8, 2021

To: The Honorable Jim Kelly, Chairperson
House Committee on Financial Institutions & Rural Development

From: David Johnston, President Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA)

RE: HB 2158, Permanent provisions for the Advisory Committee on Trauma

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) supports the passage of HB 2158 which will provide for the protection of patient-related information during discussions of the Advisory Committee on Trauma (ACT) as well as the regional trauma committees.

Trauma is a major cause of preventable deaths and life altering injuries in Kansas. The ACT plays a significant role in the coordinating effort to improve the quality of trauma care provided in Kansas. The ACT has been essential in the initiation of trauma systems to reduce morbidity and mortality of trauma patients. Trauma systems are complex and include several entities such as: 911 call centers, first responders, EMS providers, local hospital, physicians, nurses, air transport, trauma centers and many others. The ability to pursue growth and improvement of trauma services requires evaluation through incident review. It is important to extend protections to the open exchange of patient information for improving the overall delivery of trauma care. The coordination and evaluation process occurs to a large extent with the state ACT and the six regional trauma councils.

HB 2158 will remove the sunset provision and allow the continued protection of any patient information that might be part of the evaluation process conducted by the ACT or the regional trauma committees.

Respectfully

Dave Johnston, KEMSA President