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To: House Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Development

From: Kenneth D. Marshall, MD FACEP
President

Date: February 10, 2021

Subject: HB 2158; Concerning the Advisory Committee on Trauma

On behalf of the members of the Kansas Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, I am writing in support of House Bill 2158, which provides for the continuation of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma (ACT). The ACT advises the KDHE Secretary on the development and operation of the statewide trauma system. The committee is made up of individuals representing both rural and urban interests who have expertise in EMS and trauma care, and includes representatives from health care provider organizations, regional trauma councils, EMS organizations, and also includes legislative members. The ACT assists KDHE in monitoring availability of trauma resources statewide, developing education and training programs, ensuring compliance with system standards, providing oversight and guidance to the regional trauma councils and reviewing and evaluating trauma care and outcomes at a system level.

Because of the unique needs of many of our rural hospitals and communities which are served by the trauma system, this bill has significant impacts for patients served by emergency medicine physicians, surgeons, as well as primary care physicians. We see trauma victims in rural areas where there are motor vehicle crashes, farming accidents, and the need to transport patients with critical injuries.

We respectfully request this bill be passed to continue optimal trauma care for our trauma patients, such as prevention, access, prehospital care and transportation, acute hospital care, rehabilitation and research activities. Kansas has a need for an established statewide trauma system to address the needs of all injured patients.

We support House Bill 2158, and urge the legislature to make permanent the provisions for the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma. This bill will help ensure Kansans have access to quality emergency trauma care.