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Date: March 23, 2020

To: The Honorable Senator Richard Hilderbrand, Chair  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Judy Davis-Cole, R.N., M.N. (Retired)  
AARP Kansas

RE: HB 2114 – In support of establishing the Kansas Senior Care Task Force.

Good afternoon Chairman Hilderbrand and Committee Members. My name is Judy Davis-Cole and I serve as a member of the AARP Kansas Executive Council. I am a retired master's-prepared nurse with 42 years of professional nursing experience. During 14 of those years, I worked in home care. On behalf of our 290,000 Kansas members, we thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of HB 2114. HB 2114 develops a Senior Care Task Force that will serve Kansas seniors and our communities by addressing a wide range of financial and health security matters that impact seniors, family caregivers and our communities. We believe that it critical for the state to create this Senior Care Task Force to research and consider issues important to seniors across Kansas. AARP Kansas stands ready and committed to contribute as a member of the task force.

The number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to increase from 16% of the total population in 2018 to 23% of the population in 2060; or from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million in 2060 (Population Reference Bureau: *Fact Sheet: Aging in the United States*). With life expectancy projections increasing to 85.6 years by 2060 (US Census Bureau: *Living Longer: Historical and Projected Life Expectancy in the United States, 1960 to 2060*), there will be an increased demand for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS).

AARP advocates for issues that matter to people age 50 plus and their families. Those include, but are not limited to, caregiving and caregiver support; quality of life and quality of care; financial security; affordable and reliable utilities; and support for veterans, the military and their families.

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AARP's research delivers insights and thought leadership on critical issues facing older consumers and their families. Our research and thought leadership includes, but is not limited to:

- A vast knowledge of and expertise on a great number of issues from across the country, including both historical and current happenings.
- Partnerships with world leaders like the SCAN Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Commonwealth Fund in creating reports such as the AARP Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) Scorecard.
- Research on topics that matter to our members and provide insights and analysis on the motivations, needs, interests and behaviors of people age 50 plus.
- Collaboration between the AARP Public Policy Institute and the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Ohio, to analyze federally reported data and create reports like the [AARP COVID-19 Nursing Home Dashboard](#), with the goal of identifying specific areas of concern at the national and state levels in a timely manner.
- Published reports on people's shared needs for financial security, health care and quality of life as they age. In 2020, we published "The Longevity Economy" outlook report detailing the economic impact of the 50-plus population in Kansas which can be found at <https://aarpsharex.sharepoint.com/sites/infonet/PRI/Research/econwork/crosscuttingecon/Documents/LE%20All%20States-Natl/Kansas.pdf>.

We thank you, Chairman Hilderbrand and committee members, for your consideration of this bill creating the Kansas Senior Care Task Force and including AARP Kansas as a member of the task force. We support HB 2114 and we respectfully request this committee's support.

Thank you,  
Judy Davis-Cole

