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Senate Public Health and Welfare
March 29, 2021
SB 303 – Opponent
Chairman Richard Hilderbrand

Chairman Hilderbrand and Committee Members:

I am Linda MowBray, President and CEO of Kansas Health Care Association and the Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade association representing nursing homes, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health. We are the oldest and largest nursing home trade association in Kansas. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day. The communities that care for these elders employ more than 30,000 Kansans.

Our hearts go out to the residents, family members and staff that have been affected by the pandemic. I am at a loss for a strong enough adjective to describe the loss and grief that so many have experienced since March. The loneliness, isolation and disruption in routine has unquantifiable for residents, family and staff alike.

We stand opposed to SB 303. Enacting SB 303 would risk forcing county-owned adult care homes to violate the terms and conditions required for their continued enrollment in both Medicare and Medicaid programs. These are the very programs that nearly all nursing homes in the state rely on for payment for the residents in their care. Violating those terms and conditions would force residents from the home and lead ultimately to closer. These homes do not have the authority to ignore CMS requirements.

Although KHCA/KCAL does not have many county owned nursing homes in our membership, we stand arm in arm with LeadingAge Kansas in supporting these homes. We know their importance. We know their value to the community both as a resource and an employer. And mainly, we know that Kansans depend on these county-owned homes for their care.

Please oppose SB 303. It will jeopardize the county-owned homes providing care to the very residents that the proponents of this bill hoped to protect.

Thank you