



TO: House Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations
DATE: February 15, 2024
RE: HB 2784

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee regarding House Bill 2784.

The Kansas Hospital Association stands in opposition to two portions of House Bill 2784:

- Definition of 'small skilled nursing facility'
- Addition of continuing care retirement community to the definition of adult care home in KSA 39-923

Definition of 'small skilled nursing facility'

Currently, Kansas hospitals operate twenty-one nursing homes in rural counties of our state. Small rural hospitals provide most or all of the healthcare services in these small communities they serve and without these nursing homes, elderly would be forced to move away from families.

Many of these hospitals face great financial challenges and would now be required to pay an increased bed tax that could jeopardize the existence of many of these smaller nursing homes. Financial burdens have become too difficult to overcome for many and facilities continue to struggle, possibly leaving hundreds of vulnerable seniors in Kansas searching for a home.

We believe that the additional tax collection could risk financial viability for many nursing care facilities in our state. The U.S Census estimates that nearly 25 percent of Kansans will be over the age of 60 by the year 2030, an increase of 32 percent from 2012. Nursing home bed growth has not kept pace with the growth of the elderly population. Too many of our state's seniors are having to look farther and wait longer for the long-term care they need.

Addition of continuing care retirement community to the definition of adult care home

Seniors choose independent living facilities because they want less time spent caring for the home and prefer access to three meals a day, seven days a week. Social interaction amongst their friends reduces the risk of cancer, heart disease, and more. It also can improve mental health well-being.

It respects each person's understanding of what independence is for them. Seniors living in independent living facilities still have full mental capacity and can make their own choices.

Forcing these facilities under more statutes and regulations will not improve the health of these residents, but risks viability of much needed facilities and potentially adds more unnecessary bureaucracy.

We hope that you as the committee considers HB 2784 that you consider changes that would keep the current bed tax rates for our small hospitals that have these services, and carve out hospital operated independent living facilities to ensure that these facilities do not have duplicative oversight.

We thank you for your consideration of these comments.