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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of HB2015
February 9, 2023**

Chair Warren and Committee members,

This bill contains an amendment to KSA 65-6008. This is one of a series of statutes authorizing first responding agencies to request a court order for medical testing for infectious diseases of a person who has exposed first responders to body fluids. This bill is asking for an adjustment in the court process in subsection (a) of the statute. You will find the amendment on page 1, line 13 of the bill.

The problem we are trying to fix is the current statute specifies only the head of the first responder agency or entity can request the court order. This has caused some delays in these requests if the head of the agency or entity is not available, such as being out of town. Our proposed solution is to change the term “head of the employing agency or entity” to “head of the employing agency or entity, or the agency or entity head's designee.” This will provide some flexibility to the process without changing the intent of the current statute.

This does not change any of the current criteria for this testing nor does it change the applicable infectious diseases that can be tested for. It only provides for some flexibility regarding who can file the request with the court.

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