

**Testimony on Senate Bill 5
House Health and Human Services Committee**

Secretary Robert Moser, M.D.

March 1, 2012

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about SB 5, relating to licensure of perfusionists.

As Secretary of KDHE and the State Health Officer, KDHE stands in support of SB 5.

The Bureau of Child Care and Health Facilities is where the Health Occupations Credentialing program resides within KDHE. The Kansas Act on Credentialing is found in K.S.A. 65-5001-5011. In summary it is a review process administered by KDHE and serves as a screening mechanism for the Kansas Legislature.

This act sets out the requirements for health care personnel seeking to be credentialed by the state of Kansas and includes submitting a credentialing application along with a fee. If the application is accepted, a technical review committee is appointed by the Secretary of KDHE, composed of three health care personnel currently credentialed in Kansas and four members are consumers of health care. After a review of the application, fact-finding hearings and other investigations of the application are performed by the technical committee based on criteria established in K.S.A. 65-5006. If all the criteria established by law or by rules and regulations for credentialing have been met, and that credentialing by the state is appropriate, the committee recommends the application for credentialing be approved.

If the credentialing application is approved by the technical committee, then they next recommend the level of credentialing based on the criteria in K.S.A. 65-5007. This level of credentialing shall be the least regulatory means of assuring the protection of the public and based on alternatives which include Statutory Regulation, Registration, or Licensure.

Though the application, technical review, technical review committee and the Secretary's recommendations for this health care profession were submitted before my tenure, I have undertaken a review of the materials and stand before you today to state that KDHE takes a favorable position on this bill in its current form.

This health occupation-perfusionist, practice under guidance or protocols of other licensed health professionals in Kansas, including physicians and hospitals. Currently, there is a nationally recognized organization (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs-CAAHEP) that determines the curriculum and accreditation of training programs for this profession as well as a means for the profession to attain certification (American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion-ABCP). Having licensure requirements as outlined in Senate Bill 5 and regulatory oversight by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts should serve to address the concerns of public health and safety.

At this time I would also like to ask this committee to establish an interim study on the Kansas Act on Credentialing. This Act originated in 1980 and was last reviewed or modified in 1987. Considering the changing landscape in health care I believe it is time to revisit it and consider the definitions used in this act, the make-up of the technical review committee, the criteria required to determine if an applicant group should be credentialed, as well as the criteria for the level of credentialing. Finally, for each applicant group that is accepted for review the cost to KDHE is more than four times the current fee and we would also like to consider adjusting it during this interim study.

This concludes my testimony at this time and I will stand for questions.

Thank you

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