



SUBMITTED REMARKS

TO: The Honorable Brenda Landwehr, Chair
And Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Whitney Damron
On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association

RE: SB 290 – An Act concerning the addictions counselor licensure act.

DATE: March 6, 2012

Madam Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Psychological Association, representing doctoral-level psychologists in the State of Kansas respectfully submits this testimony for your consideration in support of SB 290, making changes to the Addiction Counselor Licensure Act.

At the August 29, 2011 meeting of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations, the Kansas Psychological Association (KPA) submitted remarks in opposition to adoption of certain rules and regulations being promulgated by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) relating to licensure of addiction counselors. The KPA expressed opposition to regulations that would have limited the scope of practice for PhD psychologists in the area of addictions, even though existing educational requirements already included extensive education and training in this area, including the ability to both diagnose and treat addictions. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations requested the BSRB reconsider its regulations, which it agreed to do and during that process, the parties involved agreed statutory changes were appropriate, too.

BSRB executive director Tom Hawk created a working group to consider their proposed regulations and any necessary statutory changes. The KPA was requested to participate and Jason Deselms, Ph.D., a past president of the KPA agreed to serve in that capacity.

The KPA supported the statement of Dr. Hawk on behalf of the BSRB at hearings before the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare and remain in support of SB 290 as written and before you today.

Specifically, the KPA believes it is appropriate to amend current law to allow for clinically licensed BSRB professionals to forego a two-year supervision period before being licensed as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor, as current clinically-licensed professionals are currently allowed to provide care in this area.

In closing, the KPA would like to express its appreciation to members of the Legislature, Dr. Hawk and the BSRB and other BSRB licensees who worked collectively to develop amendments to the addiction counselor licensure act that are contained in the bill. On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association, we request your favorable consideration of SB 290.