



Thomas L. Bell
President and CEO

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TO: House Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Deborah F. Stern, Vice President Clinical Services and General Counsel
RE: House Bill 2183 – Communicable Diseases

The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding this proposed legislation that addresses the notification and protection of care providers who have been exposed to communicable diseases.

While KHA generally supports this legislation, we are proposing several revisions to HB 2183. One change we are suggesting is to expand the definition of care provider to include other health care professionals who have direct patient contact and work with patients in a variety of settings.

KHA also recommends that implied consent be applicable to a source patient carrying a communicable disease and receiving care in any setting whether in or out of a health care facility, long-term care center or residential home. We are suggesting that once consent from a source patient is obtained for treatment or observation purposes, no other consent will be required for testing for a communicable disease. If a source patient is not currently receiving medical treatment or under observation, the source patient will be deemed to have consented to testing for communicable diseases and no further consent will be required.

We are working with the sponsors of this legislation and we are hopeful that we can come to an agreement on these and other revisions. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.