

HB 2608 –Kansas Trauma Registry Act Amendment

Chairman Hawkins and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2608 – a bill that provides an amendment to the current Kansas Trauma Registry Act.

My name is Joe House and I am the Executive Director for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board. The EMS Board is the state regulatory agency responsible for oversight of the EMS systems within the state. Our Board's purpose is to protect and promote the welfare of the citizens of Kansas through the efficient and effective regulation of EMS and to ensure that quality out-of-hospital care is available throughout the state.

Maintaining and improving the quality of out-of-hospital care requires evidence review and evidentiary support of practice and procedures. The Kansas Trauma Registry is one method of gathering evidence and provides a tool to analyze data to enhance that quality.

The Kansas Trauma Registry and the EMS Board have an established mutual partnership and a common focus of addressing the treatment and survival of critical injuries throughout the state. The data and analysis gained from the Kansas Trauma Registry allows EMS services to adjust protocols and practices based upon evidentiary support rather than anecdotal evidence.

Good, strong decisions are based upon good, strong evidence. The current practice to match electronic patient care data from EMS to hospital data is based upon a probabilistic linkage. In lay person terms, a high likelihood that the data involves the same person. This is a valid method of linkage when dealing with a registry without identifying data. The proposed change in this bill would allow for a deterministic linkage to occur. In lay person terms, an absolute match based upon multiple identifiers.

The change in linkage may seem small, but would save considerable time and effort upon the part of trauma registrars statewide as well as to provide stronger, better evidence for making decisions based upon trauma registry data.

We believe that the ability for the Kansas Trauma Registry to obtain identifying information strengthens the quality of data within the registry and allows for a more effective trauma system within the state.

We appreciate your consideration of this bill and fully support HB 2608 as it provides a means for gaining better evidence for decisions made related to better prevention and better care of traumatic injuries.