



**Kansas Hospital**  
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: March 17, 2021

RE: KHA Support for House Bill 2431

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2431, which expands the rural opportunity zone program in Kansas.

Kansas faces a shortage of the individuals most important to providing a strong healthcare system – physicians, nurses and the other skilled allied practitioners. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, nearly 90 Kansas counties have a designation as a primary care health professional shortage area. HB 2431 would continue to assist in workforce recruitment efforts already underway in our state by providing hospitals with the option to utilize the rural opportunity zone as a way to attract qualified health care professionals.

The success of the Kansas health care system in rural areas depends on the availability of properly education and trained health care professionals. The Kansas Hospital Association and its members requests your support for House Bill 2431.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.