

1266 SW Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, KS 66612
785.232.0225
kansasoaptometric.org



March 8, 2022

TO: House Social Services Budget Committee
FROM: Todd Fleischer, CAE
Executive Director
RE: Testimony Regarding House Bill 2253

My name is Todd Fleischer. I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Optometric Association, which represents optometrists across Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit neutral testimony regarding House Bill 2253, which deals with the K-TRACS Program.

The KOA is supportive of the K-TRACS program and believe that the program has been responsible for reducing the incidence of patients doctor-shopping and filling prescriptions for controlled substances at multiple pharmacies.

We also are supportive of efforts to adapt the program to current needs while stabilizing the funding model for the program going forward.

One issue with HB 2253 we are concerned about is in reference to the proposed ability to charge integration fees for providers who voluntarily participate in the program. If allowed, we believe those fees may limit the willingness of some providers to integrate K-TRACS into their EHR systems, which may then limit the program's effectiveness.

We recognize that there is a cost associated with integration of K-TRACS into EHR systems, but do not believe that that cost should be passed on to a provider voluntarily participating in the program in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments regarding House Bill 2253.

