Written Testimony

Health Care Stabilization Fund Oversight Committee
October 24, 2019

My name is Vicki Whitaker, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to provide the oversight committee with written testimony regarding the Health Care Stabilization Fund.

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM) supports the Health Care Stabilization Fund (HCSF) operation. The Fund has operated successfully for 40 years and is unique in the United States. The Fund’s establishment took Kansas from a medical malpractice crisis to a stable environment in which to practice medicine. Kansas is rated as one of the five best states to practice medicine by WalletHub and much of this is attributable to affordable malpractice insurance which protects both patients and providers.

The Fund’s public-private partnership has done what it was envisioned to do - provide compensation to patients for unintended medical outcomes, give Kansas health care providers access to professional liability insurance coverage and create a favorable environment for responsible professional liability insurance companies.

The Health Care Stabilization Fund Board of Governors’ determines on a yearly basis the appropriate surcharge rates to ensure the Fund’s reserves are adequate to meet or exceed liabilities. This is done to assure there will never be unfunded liabilities. Given the track record of the Fund’s operations, KAOM does not see a need for additional actuarial analysis. The approach taken is responsible with its investments and its payment of claims in a timely manner.

Thank you for your service on the Oversight Committee – the Kansas Health Care Stabilization Fund’s success is due to wise legislative decisions and good administration.