



To: Senate Committee on Commerce

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: January 27, 2021

Re: SB 10; occupational rules, regulations and licenses

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide comments regarding SB 10. While there is appropriate interest in both expediting occupational licensure and ensuring the necessity of professional standards and oversight aimed at public safety, this bill is not practical.

If there are concerns about the role of state regulatory boards and their efficiency, they should be addressed individually and specifically. Unfortunately, this wholesale approach is not likely to result in increased professional employment or government efficiency. It is most likely to result in widespread ongoing litigation about the newly created civil right to work without demonstrated competency to protect the public in an occupation which affects public safety.

The Kansas Medical Society supports the role of the Board of Healing Arts in licensing and regulating sixteen professions and more than 30,000 providers that directly interface with Kansas patients. While some professions may afford an individual the "right" to pursue their desired career path, those who hold the lives and health of others in their hands must be held to a higher standard. Requiring the agencies which license and regulate the professional standards prescribed by the legislature to report back to the legislature why these standards are necessary is circular and ineffectual at best and highly inefficient and counter-productive at worst. The legislature is appropriately tasked with providing the appropriate level of government to provide for and protect the public. It does so through carefully considered and enacted statutes these agencies then enforce.

If there are concerns about the professional standards required for a given occupation, they should be individually addressed. SB 10 is simply too broad and is likely to have the unfortunate unintended consequence of encouraging baseless litigation without encouraging employment or government efficiency.

The Kansas Medical Society opposes SB 10 and respectfully requests your unfavorable consideration of this measure.