



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: February 14, 2024

RE: Proponent Senate Bill 272

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 272. KHA represents 122 community hospitals throughout the state.

As we travel the state and hear from our hospitals, it has become clear that more investments are needed in aviation across the state.

As access to healthcare has continued to change across the state, the need for more safe and reliable points to get air ambulance to additional rural areas is continuing to grow.

We have heard from members that aircraft at times won't land at the nearest airport to the medical facility due to the configurations of the runways, runway lighting or availability of an automated weather observing station (AWOS). This requires our hospitals to transport in ways that prevent the patient from accessing the timely care that they may need.

As our state continues to evolve in how the delivery of healthcare occurs the need for additional investments in our state's air infrastructure is necessary to provide Kansans with the right care that they need at the right times.

We hope that the committee will recommend Senate Bill 272 favorably for passage.