April 30, 2012

Members of the Committee,

My name is Richard Sigle Jr. I humbly submit this written testimony to offer full support of the proposed legislation. In my background as Firefighter/Paramedic as well as a CPR/First aid instructor for over 15 plus years I personally know of the importance of a person who is sick or injured in receiving care immediately especially in terms of First aid including CPR.

My time as an instructor I’m regularly asked “can I get in trouble” for providing care. For those students attending a regular class in which a course completion card is issued I will point out that Kansas currently has a “good samaritan” act that provides certain immunities. Currently untrained people are willing to call 911 but seem hesitant to begin necessary care. One of those fears is that of legal action. While it is a desire for people to receive proper training most will not do this. The science tells us that for every minute that someone spends in cardiac arrest 7-10% of their chance of survival goes away. The only proven beneficial care is CPR and early defibrillation.

This legislation provides Kansas the opportunity to show we care. This legislation extends current protections afforded to Healthcare providers to all persons and creates an environment of caring to all the people of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Richard Sigle Jr.