

TO: The Honorable Tim Owens, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: William W. Sneed, Legislative Counsel
The University of Kansas Hospital Authority

SUBJECT: Substitute for H.B. 2069

DATE: March 7, 2011

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: My name is Bill Sneed and I am Legislative Counsel for the University of Kansas Hospital Authority. This is the Authority that the Kansas legislature created to run and operate the hospital commonly referred to as KU Med. We appear here today in support of Substitute for H.B. 2069.

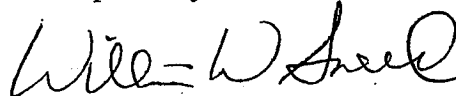
Along with the other specifics offered by the proponents of this bill, we contend that open communication is one of the most essential components between a patient and the health care provider. An upfront apology or expression of sympathy can relieve anger and frustration and reduce the level of emotion. Open communication is important in our commitment to patient safety and can improve teamwork.

By encouraging honest, open communication, bills like Substitute for H.B. 2069 facilitate the continuation of the patient-health care provider relationship following an adverse event.

We are aware that the main proponent of this bill is going to offer clarifying amendments to the substitute bill. We encourage the Committee to accept the amendments and act favorably on the bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony, and we will be happy to answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,



William W. Sneed

WWS:kjb