



**House Bill 2183: An act concerning communicable diseases
Testimony on Proposed Substitute Language**

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Chairman Crum and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss our recommended substitute language for House Bill 2183 regarding communicable diseases. We have worked closely with representatives from the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association on the revisions to this bill and have consulted with the Kansas Hospital Association and Kansas Medical Society. All of these stakeholders have indicated support for the revisions we have proposed.

The primary objective of the original version of HB 2183 is to improve the health and safety of emergency services workers and other first responders, law enforcement and corrections officers, and health care providers exposed to infectious diseases during the course of performing their jobs. The original bill would accomplish this by expanding provisions of existing state statutes dealing with exposure to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to encompass additional infectious diseases and care providers, and specifying how exposures are to be managed.

Currently, the surveillance, prevention, and control of infectious diseases are addressed in two separate articles in Kansas statutes. The pertinent sections of K.S.A. 65-101 *et seq.* provide authority for the secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to issue administrative regulations for infectious diseases other than HIV, while K.S.A. 65-6001 *et seq.* deal explicitly with HIV.

During our review of HB 2183 we determined that an alternative, simpler approach to accomplish the objectives of the original bill would be to amend pertinent sections of K.S.A. 65-101 *et seq.* Essentially, our proposed alternative language would provide the authority for the secretary of KDHE to adopt administrative regulations for prevention and control of HIV in addition to the other specified infectious diseases under current law. In particular, the proposed new language would provide more specific authority to adopt regulations to manage exposures to infectious diseases. We feel that it would be most appropriate to specify many of the operational details in the original version of HB 2183 in administrative regulations rather than in statute.

We will work collaboratively with our stakeholders to develop and adopt administrative regulations to ensure that the original objectives of HB 2183 are met.