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KANSAS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SUBMITTED REMARKS

TO: The Honorable Mary Pilcher-Cook, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

FROM: Whitney Damron
On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association

RE: SB 217 An Act concerning treatment facilities; relating to
substance abuse services.

DATE: March 7, 2013

Madam Chair Pilcher-Cook and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association, representing doctoral-level psychologists in Kansas, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 217 clarifying that state law does not and should not prohibit a qualified licensee of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board from being allowed to provide substance abuse services in a treatment facility and being reimbursed for such services as allowed by law.

This legislation and similar legislation introduced in the House clarify that a BSRB licensee shall be allowed to provide the services for which they are licensed and trained and furthermore, that state law shall not preclude such licensees from being allowed to perform such services within their scope of practice at a treatment facility.

This legislation does not limit anyone from providing addiction and treatment services that is qualified; conversely, it allows all of those who are properly trained to provide these services, which will increase the options available to treatment facilities and ultimately increase competition for services, which should have a positive influence on costs.

In closing, the KPA stands with the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and other proponents of this legislation and ask for your support.

Thank you.

WBD

K.S.A. 59-29b46 Care and Treatment for Persons with an Alcohol or Substance Abuse Problem.

Definitions. When used in the care and treatment act for persons with an alcohol or substance abuse problem:

(m) (1) "Treatment facility" means a treatment program, public or private treatment facility, or any facility of the United States government available to treat a person for an alcohol or other substance abuse problem, but such term shall not include a licensed medical care facility, a licensed adult care home, a facility licensed under K.S.A. 75-3307b, and amendments thereto, a community-based alcohol and drug safety action program certified under K.S.A. 8-1008, and amendments thereto, and performing only those functions for which the program is certified to perform under K.S.A. 8-1008, and amendments thereto, or a professional licensed by the behavioral sciences regulatory board to diagnose and treat mental disorders at the independent level or a physician, who may treat in the usual course of the behavioral sciences regulatory board licensee's or physician's professional practice individuals incapacitated by alcohol or other substances, but who are not primarily engaged in the usual course of the individual's professional practice in treating such individuals, or any state institution, even if detoxification services may have been obtained at such institution.