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Neutral Testimony on House Bill 2047 Transfer of the office of inspector general to the office of the attorney general.

Presented to the House Committee on Health and Human Services By Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt

January 31, 2017

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for considering our neutral testimony on House Bill 2047, which would move the state's Medicaid inspector general to an office attached to the attorney general's office.

We are not seeking this new responsibility. If you decide to assign it to us, we will do our best to carry it out effectively. Thank you for the opportunity to have provided technical input on the bill to maximize our ability to carry out its duties if it is enacted.

I do have one strong note of caution: This reorganization will be ineffective without adequate and reliable funding to hire the skilled personnel necessary to carry out the inspector general's functions. This will require you to fully fund the reorganized inspector general's office from independent state general fund appropriations. If you are not prepared to properly fund the inspector general with new SGF, then please do not pass this bill.

The office of the attorney general cannot pay for or subsidize this newly established inspector general's office. We will have to become opponents of this legislation unless it is fully funded with new money from outside the budget of the attorney general's office.

Thank you for your consideration.