



To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Director of Government Affairs

Date: February 12, 2018

Re: HB 2573 establishing the Maternal Mortality Review Committee

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2573, establishing the maternal mortality review committee. Currently, due to concerns regarding legal action, we do not have maternal mortality review allowing practitioners to evaluate those factors contributing to maternal mortality.

Currently, physicians who voluntarily review maternal mortality cases are not protected from being sued in any related legal action. The potential threat of legal action associated with having simply reviewed a case creates a significant barrier to providing this beneficial clinical review. HB 2573 rectifies this problem by establishing legal protections for participating physicians. Additionally, the bill protects patient information by ensuring it is de-identified and aggregated. The committee does not have authority to revoke practitioner privileges.

By establishing these protections, the maternal mortality review committee will be equipped to identify contributing causes and established trends as well as to make recommendations to hospitals, physicians and other medical providers and facilities about the findings to improve patient care and outcomes.

HB 2573 establishes necessary legal protections to encourage provider participation, protects patient and provider information and will facilitate the evaluation of maternal mortality, and hopefully serve to reduce its rate in Kansas. We respectfully request your support of HB 2573.