



March 22, 2017

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chad Austin, Sr. Vice President Government Relations
Deborah F. Stern, Sr. Vice President Clinical Services and General Counsel

RE: House Bill 2240

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2240 which would create the Crisis Intervention Act.

This proposed legislation, would permit individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders to be taken to licensed crisis intervention centers, assessed and monitored up to 72 hours. In light of the recent bed reduction at Osawatomie State Hospital due to structural concerns, Kansas is in dire need of facilities, which can temporarily house persons seen as a danger to themselves or others. Taking an individual in crisis to a local jail is not appropriate, or beneficial.

Rainbow Services, Inc., or RSI, a sobering unit in Kansas City, Kansas for individuals from Johnson and Wyandotte Counties, was created and is funded by the State to treat individuals who are in crisis due to misusing alcohol and/or drugs. Its creation of “sobering beds” has been successful in keeping those in crisis out of jail and out of our State Hospitals. Many patients who present to hospital Emergency Rooms could be assessed and treated at these new centers. The ability to provide persons experiencing a mental health crisis with 24 assessments, crisis observation, short-term stabilization and a sobering bed under the supervision of behavioral health staffers is a much needed service; one that needs to be duplicated in many areas of the state.

In summary, KHA supports the concept of creating crisis intervention centers in various parts of the state. Funding these centers needs to be discussed as soon as possible. **We urge you to support HB 2240.**

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.