



March 9, 2022

Written Neutral Testimony on SB 440
House Health and Human Services Committee
By Vicki Whitaker, Executive Director
On behalf of the
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine

Chairwoman Landwehr, Vice Chair Eplee, Ranking Minority Leader Ruiz and members of the Committee, the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM), founded in 1913, represents all osteopathic physicians and the osteopathic profession in Kansas. Many osteopathic physicians are primary care physicians practicing in rural areas.

KAOM is neutral on Senate Bill 440 and has just one concern. This concern is that Kansas patients being treated by occupational therapists, without a physician referral, who are on Medicare might not understand the terms of their Medicare coverage specify a certain amount of therapy within each covered period and accept this additional therapy not realizing they still need other therapy services. This could result in them not receiving physician referred therapy services if the coverage limit has been reached, or they can receive the physician ordered therapy services but be required to pay out-of-pocket for them.

Most Kansas seniors live on a fixed income and out-of-pocket therapy services could easily exceed this fixed income. KAOM hopes the House Health and Human Services Committee will take Medicare coverage limits into consideration as it relates to this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I am available to answer any questions you may have on KAOM's position on SB 440.

Vicki Whitaker, KAOM Executive Director
785-234-5563 or vicki@kansasdo.org