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House Health & Human Services
Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members
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Long-Term Care Issues Briefing

Good Afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee Members. I am Linda MowBray, President/CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade Association representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing home, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health communities across the state. We are the oldest nursing home trade association in Kansas and have over 265 member communities. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day and employ over 20,000 workers.

We appreciate the opportunities to come before you today to highlight some of the issues facing long term care providers which directly affect the quality of care and quality of life of the seniors we serve. I'd first like to provide you with some background on what type of senior care communities are out there and describe the client to whom they provide services.

Classifications of Long-Term Care (Doc 1)

Aging Services Acronyms (Doc 2)

Access to care and AHCA/NCAL Risk Map (Doc 3)/Closure Map (Doc 4)/Map Legend (Doc 5)

Last year, I reported that instead all 105 counties have a nursing home option, we were down to 99 counties. It was predicted that with the drawn out pandemic, you may see more closers and less access for Kansans. Unfortunately, this was correct.

Workforce/LTC Jobs Report (Doc 6)

- Physically & emotionally challenging work
- Shrinking talent pool
- Low Wages
- Staffing agencies
- Satisfaction and Quality linked with consistent staffing

Stable Funding

With nearly 60% of Kansas nursing home residents relying on the Medicaid or KanCare program, now more than ever providers need to be able to count on you for stable, reliable, and fair funding for providers. Medicaid shortfalls continue and jeopardize the ability for providers to provide the highest quality of care, the highest quality of life and attract the highest quality work force. Medicaid access to nursing homes is an entitlement program meaning we must fund it. KDADS estimated that the dollars needed to fund our skilled nursing homes based on cost reports from 2020, 2021 and 2022 would require 72 M in All Funds, with 29 M in State General Funds (SGF). The proposed budget is asking for 37.5 M All Funds with 15 M being SGF. 72 M increase based on money these homes have already spent. Instead, the proposed budget authorizes reimbursing half of that money already spent. Kansas has the ability to fully fund our nursing homes, please help in making this a priority.

We must make progress in finding a solutions to these problems and it needs to be now. Otherwise, for many elders, the answer is too little too late.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this briefing.

Linda MowBray
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KHCA/KCAL