



WRITTEN TESTIMONY
2016 Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards
December 14, 2016

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding consolidation of public health boards.

It is possible the consolidation of smaller health boards such as Emergency Medical Services, State Board of Mortuary Arts, Examiners in Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments may result in some efficiencies and cost savings. However, it is doubtful the consolidation of the larger health boards such as the Board of Healing Arts, Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy will result in the anticipated efficiency and cost savings.

As was pointed out at the December 6, 2016 committee meeting, large “mega” boards, such as the Missouri Division of Professional Registration, are cumbersome, inefficient, bureaucratic agencies which provide little in the way of ease of operations. While the consolidation may result in some immediate savings, over time layers and layers of administrative regulations are implemented to address the inefficiencies which result in the opposite of what’s intended by consolidation.

Should the Kansas Legislature pursue consolidation of public health boards, KAOM suggests the legislature move forward at a very, very slow pace. Consolidation of public health boards will be a momentous task. We do not believe a successful consolidation program is achievable over one or two legislative cycles. It will take dedication and commitment. As Beverly Sills said, “There are no shortcuts to any place worth going”