



Tom Bell
President and CEO

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
FROM: Chad Austin
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
DATE: March 9, 2017
RE: House Bill 2031 – Support

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2031. The proposed legislation establishes the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Palliative care is a specialized type of medical care provided to individuals with serious illnesses. The care focuses on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The primary goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

KHA supports the formation of the advisory council to assist in educating consumers and health care providers on the benefits of palliative care. As part of their responsibilities, the advisory council will develop recommendations and advise KDHE on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, outcomes evaluation of palliative care initiatives in Kansas. In addition, KDHE will be responsible for developing resources and materials to educate consumers and health care providers on the significance of palliative care.

On behalf of the members of the Kansas Hospital Association, we urge the committee to support the passage of House Bill 2031.