



KANSAS ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  

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**Testimony: HB 2031 – Establishing the Advisory Council on  
Palliative Care and Quality of Life**

**House Health and Human Services Committee**

**March 9, 2017**

**By: Carolyn Gaughan, CAE, on behalf of KAFP**

**Chairman Schmidt and members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to write **supporting HB 2031**, on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). Our organization represents over 1,660 active, resident, student and life members across the state. The mission of KAFP is to promote access to, and excellence in, health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. Family physicians care for people of all ages, both men and women, and work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict their patients.

Family physicians want to provide patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing and treating suffering. Palliative care is known to improve the quality of life for patients and their families and also improve health outcomes while reducing costs. At the same time, palliative care is a major concern for some family physicians in Kansas from a mistaken idea that it is solely involved with end-of-life care, or issues related to prescribing medications to relieve pain. We are working to combat misperceptions among some providers by holding a workshop at our upcoming Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference in June. We are offering a workshop titled "How to Have Conversations about Serious Illness." It will incorporate excellent information on palliative care for our members who participate.

Establishment of the state palliative care consumer and professional information and education program could be especially helpful for our members through dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information about the topic in general, and about CME opportunities on this important topic.

For all these reasons we support HB 2031. Please let me know if you have questions or need further information from KAFP.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Gaughan, CAE

Executive Vice President