



February 21, 2023

Heather Braum, Health Policy Advisor
Kansas Action for Children
Proponent Written-Only Testimony on HB 2330
House Committee on Social Services Budget

Chairman Mason and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2330, which adjusts the formula for state assistance to local health departments.

Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.

Kansas' 100 local health departments are a critical part of the care for children across Kansas—including timely immunizations, well-child visits, home visiting, WIC services, and child care licensing. As we lose medical providers across the state (especially in rural areas) local health departments are even more crucial. We ask for your continued attention to funding the demand for their increased services and need for capacity.

HB 2330 increases the minimum funding amount for each local health department from \$7,000 to \$12,000. This change would proportionally benefit all local health departments based on population size, whereas the current law is structured in a way where many local health departments do not see any financial benefit even when the Legislature allocates more funding into the formula. Making this change continues to adjust the minimum value for inflation since 1992 (when the \$7,000 minimum was set in statute), and particularly will help ensure smaller population health departments across the state benefit from funding increases, not just larger health departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB 2330. Feel free to contact me at heather@kac.org if you have any questions.