



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

1200 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 232-5822 Fax: (785) 234-2433  
[www.kcdaa.org](http://www.kcdaa.org)

To: Hon. Kellie Warren, Chair, Senate Judiciary  
From: Steve Kearney, Executive Director, KCDA  
Date: March 24, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2023

Chairwoman Warren and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today of HB 2023, an act amending K.S.A. 21-5413, relating to crimes against the public peace, creating the crime of interference with a hospital, relating to battery and increasing the penalty for battery against a health care provider. On behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association, I offer this proponent testimony in support of HB 2023.

The KCDA stands in support with the other public safety organizations strongly supporting this measure. We believe that the hard-working healthcare providers in the state of Kansas are quiet heroes, protecting the public during their times of need. Healthcare providers are worthy of this special protection in the interference statutes just like other public safety heroes such as law enforcement officers, corrections officers, county and district attorneys, community corrections employees, and judges.

Kansas prosecutors recognize hospital employees are at risk of harm in serving Kansans every day. Our members believe including them in the interference statute, and increasing criminal penalty, is good public policy, showing the seriousness with which policy makers take the protection of health care workers.

Healthcare workers are to be thanked, and commended, for their selfless service, particularly during this pandemic. We ask you report HB 2023 favorably for passage and choose to enhance protections of the hospital providers in Kansas.