KANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY
Established 1859

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: March 13, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2374; Kanas medical student loan agreements

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB2374. The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on HB 2374, which would broaden the Kansas medical student loan program to include specialties, as designated by the Chancellor of the University of Kansas. Currently, only students who select residencies in family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, and psychiatry and practice outside of Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Riley and Wyandotte counties are eligible for the program.

The Kansas Medical Student Loan Program was originally enacted in 1992 to encourage primary care physicians to practice in underserved counties in Kansas. Through these programs, physicians agree to practice in an underserved county in exchange for loan support. The concept behind these programs is that physicians are most likely to practice where they complete their residency. By engaging students in residencies in rural areas, they are more likely to live and practice in that community long term. The program has been very successful resulting in physicians practicing in 89 of Kansas's 105 counties and the majority of loan recipients remaining in their rural residency location after the terms of their loan has been satisfied.

HB 2374 expands this successful program beyond family practice, obstetrics and gyncology, and psychiatry into other specialties as identified and approved by the Chanecellor of the University of Kansas based on qualifying metrics. Importantly, those funds which are allocated for specialties which do not utilize their full loan authorization will transfer back to the original designation for primary care to ensure that the original intent of the loan program is preserved and Kansans have access to primary care to manage healthcare services.

The programs have been extremely successful in achieving the goal of attracting physicians to underserved areas. KMS urges the state's continued partnering with local communities and residency programs to adequately meet physician workforce needs across the state. The Kansas Medical Society strongly supports HB 2374 to ensure strong incentives to grow the physician workforce across the state and urges your favorable consideration of HB 2374.