

**Proponent Testimony on HB 2330
Social Services Budget Committee
Ashley Goss, Deputy Secretary for Public Health
Kansas Department for Public Health
February 21, 2023**

Chairman Mason and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to speak in support of HB 2330.

The funding provided to the 100 Kansas health departments from the Kansas Legislature, commonly known as State Formula, is critical as it allows them to ensure all Kansas citizens have access to public health services with a goal of protecting and improving the health of all Kansans, regardless of the population size of the county where they reside. These services can range from car seat safety checks to breastfeeding support to preparing for emergencies like tornadoes.

Because of how KSA 65-242 was written, the majority of counties, due to their small population sizes, receive only the \$7,000 minimum. This minimum has been in place since the funding was established in 1992. Over the past two years, additional funding was added to the State Formula allocation. However, because of the language in KSA 65-242, only the counties with larger populations received any benefit.

Without the passage of HB 2330 this session, 62 counties will receive less than \$12,000, 39 of which will receive only the \$7,000 minimum.

Furthermore, the current formula is complex and requires extensive staff time to calculate the allocations for all counties. HB 2330 simplifies the formula as it is a base all receive, and then the remaining balance is distributed to all counties based on their proportion of the population. A key benefit is that all counties receive additional funding anytime the legislature allocates additional funding, not just the larger ones. To ensure that no counties lose funding because of HB 2330, an increase in funding must be passed this session. Otherwise, the small counties will receive an additional \$5,000 each, while larger counties like Johnson and Sedgwick would lose significant amounts (\$61,625 and \$52,691, respectively). Additional funding would also help address the amount spent on public health per person in Kansas, which currently ranks near the bottom nationally for funding (39th at \$87 per Kansan). Source: America's Health Rankings, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to explain the benefits of HB 2330.

Ashley Goss
Deputy Secretary of Public Health
Kansas Department of Health and Environment