



TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President

DATE: February 10, 2025

RE: House Bill 2039

The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments in support of House Bill 2039.

Credentialing is a widespread challenge for almost all medical professionals and we very much appreciate the proponents highlighting the needs to reform and improve this process. We frequently hear from hospitals that the credentialing process is burdensome and adds unnecessary administrative costs to the process of getting medical professionals serving Kansas patients.

Our hospitals report to KHA that the process of credentialing oftentimes take approximately 90 days and sometimes up to 120 days. That means our healthcare facilities are paying these providers that are not seeing patients for that amount of time. It's a frustrating process for the medical professionals that value providing patient care above all else.

Further, it's not just new professionals that must be credentialed. In fact, if a medical professional begins to practice in a new location they must get credentialed by every insurance company that makes payment to the new facility, even if it's within the same state, same healthcare system, or same city.

Hospitals across the state are struggling to attract and retain medical professionals and physicians have heard how hard it is to be licensed and credentialed in Kansas, so this is something that needs to be addressed more broadly.

Other states have found ways to tackle this challenge for medical professionals, and we would highly recommend that as this committee looks at a way to remedy this process to help those beyond the physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology.

We recommend that when the committee work this bill, they consider adding language to streamline the administrative burden's in the healthcare industry, bringing down access to cost, and increasing access to care, by adding the following language to House Bill 2039.

*"A health insurer in the state of Kansas shall conclude the process of credentialing and loading the applicant's information into the health insurer's billing system within forty-five calendar days after the date the health insurer receives a complete credentialing application. A health insurer shall pay claims for a covered service provided to a subscriber by a participating provider who has a fully executed contract with a network plan if the participating provider's credentialing application has been approved retroactively by the health insurer to the date of the participating provider's complete credentialing application."*

We thank the committee for their time and consideration of our proposed language change to House Bill 2039.