

**Written Only Opponent Testimony**

**HB 2217 - Expanding the scope of the inspector general to audit and investigate all state cash, food or health assistance programs and granting the inspector general the power to subpoena, administer oaths and execute search warrants thereto**

**House Health & Human Services Committee**

**February 10, 2025**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to provide testimony on HB 2217. KDADS opposes HB 2217 which would expand the scope of the Medicaid Inspector General to audit and investigate all state cash, food, or health assistance programs. KDADS oversees the nursing facility, mental health, substance abuse, and Home and Community Based Service programs under the Kansas Medicaid program. HB 2217 does not add additional programs under KDADS' jurisdiction. KDADS works with providers that provide services to people with mental illness or needing substance abuse treatment who do not have health insurance or other ability to pay. We also fund senior nutrition programs that deliver food and meals to seniors provided by local agencies.

Investigating fraud and abuse to protect the consumers and taxpayers from criminal schemes or waste is in the interest of the State. KDADS works within the rules of the programs, both federal and state, that are in place that govern program administration. The federal programs KDADS administers have oversight processes to detect and stop fraud through duplicate claiming, false payments, or unauthorized payments. State payment processes validate the providers to ensure they are meeting program objectives identified in contracts.

HB 2217 would give the Inspector General oversight of additional programs. Providers KDADS works with often participate in multiple programs to meet the needs of their target populations or meet the needs of their communities. Under HB 2217 those providers would be subject to investigation by the Inspector General in addition to the direct program requirements under Medicaid, the Senior Care Act, Substance Abuse block grant, and other federal programs. The multiple, conflicting rules that could be subject to investigation would be confusing to providers, discourage participation in assistance programs, and reduce the services available to Kansas needing community based and long term care services. Inspector General investigation are often focused on a particular program or program element, but veer off into other programs, agency operations, or unrelated topics that use up valuable time of cash strapped providers. The Attorney General's Office has authority to investigate and prosecute fraud in the Medicaid program. The expansion proposed duplicates that authority or muddies the water of who's responsible potentially confusing our providers and partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information and feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Andy Brown  
Deputy Secretary for Programs  
Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services