

February 10, 2025

Chair Carpenter, Vice Chair Bryce, Ranking Minority Member Ruiz, and members of the Kansas House Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to House Bill 2170, which would establish the first full week of February as Kansas Bum Awareness Week.

Burns are some of the most devastating of medical emergencies. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 400,000 people seek medical care for burn injuries in the United States annually. Of those seeking care, just over 3,000 will die of their injuries. In Kansas, burns contribute to unintentional injury deaths, the 4th leading cause of death in the state. Of all types of unintentional injury, burns are the 6th leading cause of accidental death in our state. The admission causes for burn injuries throughout the United States are as follows: 43% fire/flame, 34% scald, 9% contact, 4% electrical, 3% chemical and 7% other. Thanks to the advances in burn care, nationally there is a greater than 96% survival rate for burn patients. Burn survivors may suffer extreme pain as well as difficult and demanding rehabilitation. They require access to many services through their lengthy healing process.

House Bill 2170 would establish the first full week of February as Kansas Bum Awareness Week. This week would align with the American Burn Association's recognition of Bum Awareness Week. By codifying House Bill 2170, Kansas would honor those who have lost their lives or suffered severe burn injuries, raise awareness of accidental burn injuries and fatalities, and also educate the public on effective preventative measures to avoid accidental burn injuries or fatalities.

On behalf of the Burnett Burn Center at the University of Kansas Health System and the Ascension Via Christi Regional Burn Center, we strongly support House Bill 2170. We are grateful for Representative Essex' leadership on this important issue, and respectfully request the Kansas House Committee on Health and Human Services favorably report this legislation.

Respectfully,



Julia C. Slater, MD, FACS, FABA
Medical Director, Burnett Burn Center at the University of Kansas Health System