



TO: Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Joel Phelps
Chief Executive Officer
Salina Regional Health Center

DATE: March 5, 2025

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2250- Written Only

On behalf of Salina Regional Health Center and our affiliated facilities in North Central Kansas, we sincerely thank the legislature for its efforts in increasing the provider assessment rate up to 6% for calendar year 2025. This adjustment is a crucial step toward strengthening hospitals across our region, and we strongly support making this change permanent through HB 2250.

Following the conclusion of the 2024 legislative session, I was honored to serve on a committee of hospital representatives tasked with identifying improvements to the program. Our recommendations included expanding eligibility to encompass critical access hospitals and rural emergency hospitals, ensuring these essential facilities can access additional Medicaid funding. HB 2250 reflects these key improvements, offering vital financial relief to hospitals that serve rural communities.

At Salina Regional Health Center, our mission is to provide high-quality care close to home. Our health system includes not only our main hospital in Salina but also critical access hospitals in Abilene, Concordia, and Lindsborg. The passage of HB 2250 will be a net positive for all our facilities. If approved by CMS, this legislation will significantly enhance financial stability for hospitals across North Central and Northwestern Kansas, helping sustain the essential services our communities rely on.

We appreciate your consideration of HB 2250 and your continued commitment to strengthening hospitals across Kansas. Thank you for your support.