



March 5, 2025

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Kansas Action for Children  
Written-only Proponent Testimony on HB 2397  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Chairman Carpenter and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 2397, which **adjusts the state funding formula for local health departments.**

Kansas' 100 local health departments greatly impact the health of kids and families across the state. Whether it's the Vaccines for Children program, WIC services, health screenings, nutrition education, disease prevention, breastfeeding support, or a number of other services tailored to meet local needs, **local health departments are a critical part of our state's health care system.** We ask for your continued attention to the demand for increased services and capacity.

HB 2397 increases the minimum funding amount for each local health department from \$7,000 to \$12,000, among other formula changes, **permanently codifying budget proviso language that has been included in multiple annual budget bills.** This removes the need to temporarily address this issue year-to-year via a budget proviso. It will particularly ensure smaller population health departments across the state benefit from funding increases, not just larger health departments.

We urge this Committee to pass out HB 2397 to stop the need for the temporary annual budget provisos. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at [heather@kac.org](mailto:heather@kac.org).

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### ***About Kansas Action for Children***

Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.