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Testimony of Grant County Health Department to the
House Health and Human Services Committee
Proponent HB2397
March 5, 2025

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for HB2397, which seeks to amend the local health department funding formula. My name is Denise James, and I represent the Grant County Health Department.

Grant County Health Department serves a small population, which currently results in a minimum allocation of just \$7,000 under K.S.A. 65-242. Thanks to the legislative proviso over the past few years, we have been receiving \$12,000, and we are advocating for this to become a permanent adjustment.

Since the start of State Fiscal Year 2021, the Governor and Legislature have included a proviso in each budget bill to increase the minimum state assistance allocation for local health departments from \$7,000 to \$12,000. This proviso has provided a modest increase in funding for the smallest local health departments in Kansas, which helps support critical services such as disease outbreak monitoring, health promotion programs, and the overall advancement of community health. HB2397 aims to codify this increased funding level into the statute, eliminating the need for annual reliance on proviso language in the budget bill.

I ask you to please pass HB2397.

Respectfully,

Denise M James. RHIT

Denise James, RHIT
Administrator
Grant County Health Department