

**Neutral Testimony on HB2223
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
March 12, 2025**

Chair Carpenter and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this neutral testimony concerning HB 2223. My name is Susan Gile, and I am the Executive Director for the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (“KSBHA” or “Board”). The Board is the executive body tasked with licensing and regulating 16 different healthcare professions in Kansas. *See K.S.A. 65-2801 et seq.* The Board is composed of 15 members, 12 of whom are licensed healthcare professionals from various professions, including eight licensed physicians, three chiropractors, one podiatrist, and three public members. **The statutory mission of the Board is patient protection.**

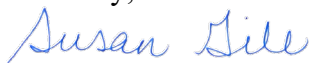
The Board stands neutral on the passage of HB2223 but does have some questions/concerns and feels the bill needs some clarification prior to passage.

- Section 1 (1) removes “topical” when discussing the optometrist’s prescriptive authority. This brings up many questions as to what, if any, limits there will be on the prescriptive authority of the optometrist. Will they be able to prescribe opioids? Will they be required to receive any training on prescribing?
- Section 1 (2) discussed the use of “medical devices”. There is no definition of what constitutes a “medical device”. This needs further clarification.
- Section 1 (4) provides for the optometrist to utilize laser capsulotomy, laser trabeculoplasty and laserperipheral iridotomy. This is a medical procedure and is practicing medicine and surgery. The use of lasers is specifically addressed in K.A.R. 100-27-1 which restricts the use of lasers to physicians or those under the supervision of a physician who is physically present.

The healthcare system is a continuum with all members having equal importance. It is important to maintain the balance of the system by ensuring that each profession maintains their expertise and performs only the procedures they are trained and well qualified to perform.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Gile
Executive Director