

March 10, 2025

To: House of Representatives, Committee on Taxation

From: Mark Aeschliman

Re: House Bill 2390 (Proponent)

As a board member of Holton Community Hospital (HCH) since 2018, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2390, which requests a .25% sales tax solely supporting HCH. HCH is one of the largest employers in our community with 203 employees, creating an enormous positive impact within our community. HCH provides outstanding care to their patients offering services like swing bed, imaging, surgical, laboratory, and emergency services, to name a few.

HCH operates three Rural Health Clinics in Hoyt, Holton, and Wetmore. In 2022, a survey was conducted by the Kansas Hospital Association, which noted HCH is one of only five independent Critical Access Hospitals in Kansas. HCH receives NO financial support in terms of taxes or mill levies. Many other hospitals in northeast Kansas, Onaga, Seneca, Sabetha, Marysville, and Wamego DO receive sales tax support. In the past few years, major reimbursement challenges have occurred regarding how our hospital is paid for procedures performed resulting in a very challenging environment. Operating expenses have risen by 33% from increased salaries as we compete against larger hospitals for employees, supply chain issues, and delays in reimbursement from payors are factors as well.

There were over 3,800 emergency room visits to HCH last year from patients needing life changing, quality care and I was one of them. Therefore, I can personally share the great importance of the vital care that HCH provides. With this .25% sales tax, it will have an enormous positive financial impact for our hospital to offset the rising costs and declining financial reimbursements. For the reasons mentioned, I ask that this committee favorably recommend House Bill 2390. The Holton Community Hospital is a vital service for our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Mark Aeschliman,

HCH Board Member

HCH Foundation Board Member

HCH Patient and Family Advisory Committee

Local Business Owner

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