



TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Affairs

Date: February 5, 2026

RE: Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 413

The Kansas Hospital Association, on behalf of our 124 community hospital members, appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Senate Bill 413.

SB 413 takes an important step toward ensuring fairness in civil trials. Currently, attorneys can encourage juries to award specific amounts or ranges of money for noneconomic damages such as pain, suffering, and emotional distress. While juries are entrusted with great responsibility, the current practice subjects them to anchoring effects—numbers or formulas that can overly influence deliberations even when unsupported by evidence. By prohibiting any suggestion of specific dollar amounts, ranges, or formulas for noneconomic loss, SB 413 will:

1. Protect the integrity of jury deliberation by focusing deliberations on evidence and legal standards, not persuasive sales tactics.
2. Promote consistency and predictability in verdicts by reducing arbitrary high or low awards driven by strategic numerical anchoring.
3. Balance the interests of all parties in civil litigation—plaintiffs, defendants, and the broader public—by discouraging runaway damage awards that can increase insurance costs, escalate litigation, and impact economic stability.

Under SB 413, counsel will still be able to vigorously advocate for their clients. They will simply be restricted from suggesting specific numbers or formulas that could unduly anchor a jury's sympathy or bias. This change respects the jury's role while protecting against persuasion that lacks a factual basis.

We hope that the committee will support Senate Bill 413.