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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
In Support of HB2365  
February 12, 2025**

Chair Gossage and Committee Members,

The KSA, KACP and KPOA are supportive of the proposed language change in HB 2365. Most of the language is adding the South Central Regional Mental Hospital to current statute.

On page 11, starting on line 38 is more substantive. This language creates a catchment area for Sedgwick, Butler, Cowley, Harvey and Sumner counties. This is important because adding the state hospital to south central Kansas and creating a catchment area will create more bed space for other counties who utilize Osawatomie and Larned facilities for emergency commitments, in hopes of wait times being drastically decreased.

We believe this catchment area will also relieve some load on both Larned and Osawatomie State Hospitals relating to competency evaluations and treatment. That will help reduce waiting times for those commitments at the other state hospitals for the other 100 counties.

Our associations would like to thank the legislature for making critical decisions on how mental health care is being addressed for Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheriff Jeff Easter  
KSA Legislative Chair