

March 12, 2025

Senator Beverly Gossage, Chair
Kansas Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
6425 SW 6th Avenue , 142-S
Topeka, KS 66615

Dear Chairwoman Gossage & Members of the Public Health & Welfare Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to provide proponent testimony for HB2335.

From 2010-2018, I served as the Chief Executive Officer of Overland Park Regional Medical Center, a HCA Level 4 Maternal & NICU Tertiary Referral Center. During this time, the hospital received maternal and newborn patients from the New Birth Company Birth Center. They appropriately transferred patients to a higher level of care based on standard changes in acuity, exactly in the same fashion as rural Level 1 hospital labor and delivery units.

The birth center was licensed and regulated by KDHE. It met a higher standard of quality by being accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC), the equivalent of the Joint Commission for hospitals.

I am a proponent of well regulated, high quality accredited birth centers that closely partner with integrated delivery network hospitals and physicians. Facility malpractice coverage is a necessary KanCare contractual requirement. Requiring stand-alone birth center facilities seeking access to the HCSF to be accredited lowers the fund's risk.

HB2335 is a necessary piece of legislation and should be passed without further delay.

You may contact me at 913-484-8364 regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hicks
CABE Consulting LLC