

117 SW 6th Ave, Suite 200 Topeka, K\$ 66603

(785) 267-6003 Phone (785) 267-0833 Fax khca@khca.org Email www.khca.org Website

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February 10, 2010

Aging and Long Term Care Committee

Mr. Chairman and Committee members

On behalf of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living membership and residents we would like to bring an important topic to your attention today.

The issue of financial exploitation is an unfortunate fact of being an older citizen. And sadly many in the nursing home and assisted living provider community see too many examples of their family members exploiting. When we turn to Adult Protective Services for help for these seniors, often, help is not found.

We would like to be a part of the solution to figure out how to assist frail and vulnerable residents with family members and others who do not have the best interest of the resident in mind. Because of this, we fully support HB 2108 which moves Adult Protective Services from the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services to the Attorney General's office.

This alignment makes sense and provides the right enforcement power to assure that frail elders and in fact all adults in need get the help they deserve in dealing with abusive, neglectful or exploitive situations regardless of where they call home.

Thank you for accepting this testimony in support of HB2108 and always if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Cindy Luxem

Kansas Health Care Association/Kansas Center for Assisted Living

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