



**Testimony on HB 2659  
to**

**House Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Presented by Bob Moser, MD  
Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

**February 13, 2012**

Chairwoman Landwehr, and members of the Committee, good afternoon and thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. Today I am here to provide testimony related to HB 2659, which will move the licensure of Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (Board). I had originally intended to support the bill in its introduced format, but just this morning additional conversations took place with SLPs, Audiologists and our staff such that I am now coming before you requesting that all references to the Board be changed to the Department for Aging (Aging).

HB 2659 was intended to be part of a complete reorganization of the various components of the Health Occupation Program, which is currently housed within KDHE. In conjunction with Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) 41, this bill will remove all licensing and credentialing activity related to health professionals from KDHE. We believe that moving SLPs and Audiologists to Aging; along with the moving of Certified Nurse Aides, Certified Home Health Aides, Certified Medication Aides, Adult Care Home Administrators, and Dieticians as outlined in ERO 41, will provide an appropriate alignment for the licensure and certification of these professions into the future. KDHE will continue to be involved in the credentialing of additional health professions, as directed in the Health Occupation Credentialing Act, 65-5001 et seq.

It is our opinion that moving SLPs and Audiologists to Aging will allow for better regulatory alignment. As we move forward KDHE is dedicated to a smooth transition and looks forward to working with Aging to assure as minimal a disruption for the SLPs and Audiologists as is possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would be glad to stand for any questions the Committee might have.

Bob Moser, M.D.  
Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment