



Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

February 11, 2013

Testimony in Opposition to SB 109

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Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association and LeadingAge Kansas concerning SB 109.

The Kansas Hospital Association represents 126 community hospitals in Kansas that consist of for-profit, private non-profit and governmental non-profit facilities. The governmental non-profit facilities within our membership include many county, city and district hospitals.

LeadingAge Kansas, formerly known as KAHSA, represents 160 facilities including not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living and residential health care residences, PACE programs, homes plus, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout Kansas. The non-profit facilities within our membership include county and city owned adult care homes.

We oppose SB 109. We believe that hospitals and adult care homes in Kansas have the fundamental right to petition and to advocate before the legislature, the Governor and other governmental entities – and to do so both directly and by joining together as an Association. This legislation would prohibit both.

Small hospitals, adult care homes and aging service providers across Kansas are facing more challenges today than ever before. As such, it is crucial for those facilities to be able to express their concerns to lawmakers in an organized manner. This bill would limit the ability of these Kansas institutions to perform this important function.

We believe that this legislation is overreaching, bad public policy and flies in the face of constitutional freedoms of speech and rights to petition.

We would urge you not to recommend SB 109.