

March 15, 2004

TO: HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
FROM: GARY L. ROBBINS, CAE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
RE: TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 466

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the House Health & Human Services Committee on Senate Bill 466. I will be out of town on Tuesday and unable to attend the hearing.

On behalf of the Kansas Optometric Association, I want to express our strong support for Senate Bill 466 as amended by the Senate Committee. The Senate Committee amendment in lines 29 and 30 addresses our concerns about HIPAA and we strongly support that amendment. Currently, optometrists and ophthalmologists routinely report their findings regarding the vision of their patients renewing their drivers' licenses to the Division of Vehicles. This legislation clarifies this issue for all physicians and optometrists while assuring that this reporting remain voluntary.

In closing, we would respectfully ask the House Health & Human Services Committee to pass Senate Bill 466.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.