



KHCA

Member of
ahca

Kansas Health Care Association

221 SOUTHWEST 33rd STREET
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66611-2263
(785) 267-6003 • FAX (785) 267-0833

To: Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: HB 2658

Date: February 17, 2004

Chairperson Morrison and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today about informal dispute resolution process as it relates to adult care homes.

I am Linda Berndt, Executive Vice-President of the Kansas Health Care Association and I will speak in support of HB 2658. KHCA represents nursing homes, nursing facilities for mental health, long-term care units of hospitals, assisted living facilities, senior housing and community service providers serving across the state of Kansas.

Many of our members have voiced concerns that the current IDR process is not an independent, effective or heavily utilized process. For these reasons, our Association supports establishing an independent review panel to review any disputed survey deficiencies.

Our Association feels that a third party independent review would be better utilized by our members.

In past surveys conducted with facilities across the state they have reported:

Administrators believe it is hard for the Regional Manager to be totally unbiased when the findings of their inspection staff are being questioned.

Nursing facilities are afraid of retribution from the agency

Administrators feel the current process is not independent.

We support HB 2658 with one exception. We would like to see the review process be done by the Department of Administration and be funded with the Civil Monetary Penalty fund.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.



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