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S.B. 106 Identifying Major Health Care Issues and Establishing Objectives and Priorities

Chairperson Morrison and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Terri Roberts R.N. and I am representing the KANSAS STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION (KSNA) in support of SB 106.

KSNA supports that the state health agency provide leadership and direction on health prevention activities. For the past 14 years we have partnered with KDHE in establishing and promoting priorities, most significantly the Healthy Kansans 2000 health objectives, and now the 2010 Healthy People objectives for Kansas. Registered nurses work in the many settings (acute care, home health, community health to name just a few) where the prevention campaigns can be supported and benchmarking can be facilitated. We that progress has been made, that Kansans are aware of risk factors in maintaining health, and assuming greater responsibility for changing behaviors (activity, tobacco reduction, diet, etc.).

The Bureau of Chronic Disease and Health Promotion has been very successful in soliciting federal grants to support Healthy Kansans. Currently the Bureau receives over 7 Million in federal grants and does an excellent job of re-distributing the dollars for targeted health promotions in Kansas communities. Their efforts to date should not go unrecognized. The past Directors of Health, namely Dr. Potsic and Dr. Mosier were very receptive to focusing the Division of Health on these very important concepts of prevention and reducing risk factors to promote greater health for all ages of Kansans.

This proposed statute embraces the concept of continuing the agency focus on Healthy Kansans 2010. We anticipate that this leadership will continue if this bill is passed.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony.