

**Testimony Re: Telemedicine
Special Committee on Health
Presented by Leo Herrman, Ph.D.
on behalf of
Kansas Association of Masters in Psychology
October 20, 2017**

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Leo Herrman, and I am President Elect of the Kansas Association of Masters in Psychology. The Kansas Association of Masters in Psychology (KAMP) is comprised of Masters Level Psychologists and Clinical Psychotherapists interested in general healthcare issues, credentialing, mental health, and issues that would impact Masters Level Psychologists, Clinical Psychotherapists or their patients.

KAMP supports the measures outlined in House Bill No. 2206. We would support any legislation providing such reimbursement for telemedicine as long as actions proposed in the bill apply to mental health treatment. Telemedicine-delivered health care services are viewed as an integral and necessary part of adequate mental health services to citizens of the State, and are particularly essential in the more rural areas of Kansas where Licensed Master Level Psychologists and Licensed Clinical Psychotherapists provide the predominant amount of psychological services. The Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council Rural and Frontier Subcommittee in their 2017 Annual Report recommended the following:

- "...technology itself is no longer the barrier to use. Perceptions of technology and related local and state legislation and organizational policy are now the more significant barrier." (R/F Subcommittee, Fy2016 Annual Report pg. 5, 2c)
- Actively championing use of telemental health to address barriers to receiving behavioral health services – like workforce shortage and transportation.
- Established partnership with KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth, and the Heartland Resource Center. 12.1.16
- Planning Telehealth Use Survey to explore telehealth as a tool for delivering an alternative service – especially for the elderly. 1.26.17

A bill insuring that the proper supports for telehealth provided services by Masters Level Psychologists and Clinical Psychotherapists is viewed as an essential step towards meeting the needs of the people we serve.

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify, and I will be happy to yield to questions.