

Dear Chairman Hilderband and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

This letter serves as opposing testimony to SB 174 and is written only. I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Radiological Society, the professional organization representing the state's several hundred physicians specializing in radiology. We stand in opposition to SB 174, specifically the provision in section (3) permitting the ordering and interpreting of diagnostic procedures. We would understand that to include x-rays, ultrasounds and other imaging procedures. Radiologists spend 5-7 years of specialized training after medical school in order to provide accurate interpretations of imaging studies. Other physicians recognize that they do not have the necessary expertise and hence rely on us for interpretations. While APRNs have specialized nursing training, they receive no training in diagnostic imaging or study interpretation. It is difficult to understand how they can provide such a service without any training at all. This is a serious patient care issue, as treatment decisions are made based on results of imaging studies. Similarly, even simply ordering such studies is problematic. With no training at all in imaging, they are not in a position to adequately understand what exams to order for a given condition. Finally, there is no need for them to provide such service, as professional radiologist interpretations are available statewide, if not onsite, by teleradiology 24/7. We therefore strongly encourage rejection of SB 174.

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