

Susan Gile, Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

March 13, 2023

Written Neutral Testimony for HB 2449 before the Appropriations Committee

Chair and Honorable Committee Members,

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (“Board”) submits this neutral testimony to assist legislators in evaluating HB 2449. I am Susan Gile, Executive Director of the Board. The Board is the executive body tasked with licensing and regulating 16 healthcare professions in Kansas. *See K.S.A. 65-2801 et seq.* The Board is composed of 15 members, 12 of whom are licensed healthcare professionals from various professions, including eight licensed physicians, three chiropractors, one podiatrist, and three public members. The statutory mission of the Board is patient protection.

HB 2449 relates to per diem compensation for members of boards and commissions. Currently members of the Board are paid \$35.00 per day to participate in Board Meetings. They are paid travel expenses but do not receive any subsistence allowance 2449 will increase the per diem to \$88.66 per day. HB 2449 also allows for a subsistence payment if a Board Member travels for a Board Meeting the day prior and lives more than 100 miles from the meeting site.

As stated above, the members of the Board are mostly healthcare professionals. The three public members are equally accomplished in their respective fields. They take time out of their professional lives to essentially volunteer for the important work of the Board. We are a working Board. Each meeting has a long and intense agenda consisting of items central to the licensing and regulation of the healthcare professions governed by the Board. Disciplinary cases are also heard during these meetings. The preparation packets generally run into the thousands of pages. Each Board member comes to the meetings prepared having taken hours out of their own time to review the packet in advance of the meeting. They are not compensated for this time.

Raising the per diem for time spent in the meeting to \$88.66 per day will be a step in the right direction in better compensating those who are willing to serve in this very important capacity. We want to have our best and brightest on these boards.

I welcome any comments, questions, or further dialogue with member of the committee. Please feel free to contact me at (785) 296-3680 or via email Susan.Gile@ks.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony.

Sincerely,



Susan Gile

Executive Director

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