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March 9, 2023

The Honorable Brenda Landwehr, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Kansas Legislature
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: SB 131 - Permitting an out-of-state physician to receive a sports waiver to practice medicine on a limited basis during certain sporting events

Submitted electronically.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM)—headquartered in Leawood, Kansas, and representing 4,900 board-certified sports medicine physicians across the nation—we respectfully submit this testimony regarding SB 131, permitting an out-of-state physician to receive a sports waiver to practice medicine on a limited basis during certain sporting events.

Athletes who compete in intercollegiate or professional leagues often travel across state lines to attend tournaments, bowl and exhibition games, and other types of competitions. Ideally, the team physician, along with other healthcare professionals, travel with the athletes. However, despite the passage of federal legislation to address this issue, some state laws—including laws in Kansas—remain unclear regarding the out-of-state licensure of traveling team physicians.

SB 131 would clarify state law to allow team physicians licensed in another state to accompany and treat athletes traveling to Kansas, without having to obtain a separate license to practice medicine. This temporary waiver to practice medicine in Kansas is limited in three important ways:

- the short duration of time the team will be in Kansas for practice or competition;
- the infrequency and special nature of travel (*e.g.*, league games, tournaments, annual rivalries, bowl games, etc.); and
- the fact that the patients are also from out-of-state and attached to the team as an athlete or staff.

It is increasingly important for athletes to have team physicians and other healthcare professionals travel with the team to afford a

continuity of care for the traveling athletes. Team physicians bring a knowledge of medical histories, current medical status and treatments, as well as specific medical skills pertaining to sports medicine. Team physicians are focused solely on the care of the team's athletes and other traveling staff. There is no impact on the power to license or discipline licensees, as Kansas retains its authority over physician licensure and the oversight of healthcare professionals. Furthermore, there is no cost or fiscal impact to accommodate traveling team physicians who travel to Kansas.

As intercollegiate and professional sports become increasingly popular, as teams travel to venues in every state, AMSSM applauds the Committee for considering SB 131 and we encourage you to consider the benefit of clarifying state law regarding team physicians who travel to Kansas.

Of note, the Kansas State Senate approved SB 131 unanimously by a vote of 39-0.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact AMSSM if we can answer any questions or be of service to you.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole Yedlinsky, MD
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