



To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: February 15, 2024

Re: HB 2793; relating to the healthcare of minors

The Kansas Medical Society (KMS) appreciates the opportunity to appear before the committee today in support of HB 2793 relating to the health care of minors and informed consent. This bill codifies the practice of acquiring informed consent for medical care from parents on behalf of their minor children. HB 2793 does not change the process or parameters of informed consent, it just clarifies that parents provide consent on behalf of their children.

First and foremost, KMS supports legislation and regulation that enhances the physician-patient relationship. The bedrock of medicine is ethical conduct of physicians. Informed consent to medical treatment is fundamental in both ethics and law. Patients have the right to receive information and ask questions about medical treatments so that they can make well-considered decisions about care. Successful communication in the patient physician relationship fosters trust and supports shared decision making that leads to the best outcomes.

With pediatric patients it is important to understand brain development as a continuum. In giving or withholding permission for medical treatment of their children, parents/guardians are expected to safeguard their children's physical health and well-being and to nurture their children's developing personhood and autonomy.

As children reach closer to adulthood, the goal is to foster adults that can participate fully in any informed consent discussion about health care decisions.

Kansas Medical Society supports HB2793 as it affirms the importance of informed consent in the medical decision-making process with regard to minor patients.