



Kearney and Associates, Inc.

March 20, 2024

Senator Kellie Warren, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: KAAP Support of HB 2601

Chair Warren and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Abraham Pfannenstiel, and I am a licensed attorney with Kearney Associates, Inc., appearing today on behalf of our client, the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP).

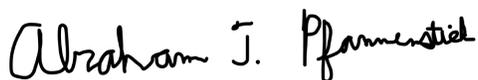
KAAP is the state's largest addiction services trade association. Our Mission is to serve members with advocacy and support to achieve excellence in addiction treatment. While the American Medical Society declared that alcoholism and drug addiction was a disease in 1955, the treatment field was primarily comprised of individuals in recovery who had a desire to help others. Today, professionals in social welfare, criminal justice, physical and mental health care, and other disciplines are acquiring the training and licensure to work more effectively with individuals experiencing a substance use disorder.

As the primary originator of this legislation, KAAP stands in strong support of HB 2601. HB2601 would amend K.S.A. 8-1567 to require clinical intervention for individuals convicted of a third or fourth felony Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge. This bill re-inserts language that requires a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) service model to include clinical care coordination and substance use treatment services, a supervising corrections officer, and the person. This legislation would revert Kansas law back to practices that have been in place since 2011.

The programs that this bill supports will go far in continuing to make our communities safer and our judicial system less burdened while also advocating for the health and well-being of all Kansans.

We strongly urge you to pass HB 2601 favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Wishing the best always,



Abraham T. Pfannenstiel
Attorney-At-Law
Kearney and Associates, Inc.