



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Date: February 17, 2023

From: Rachelle Colombo, Executive Director

Re: The Kansas Medical Society

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide neutral comments on SB 131, providing an exemption from licensure requirements for certain out-of-state physicians practicing medicine on a limited basis in the state during certain sporting events.

In general, KMS believe that medical licensure requirements should be consistent and set a high bar for medical practice so as to ensure the protection of the public. There are several avenues available for expedited licensure, included, but not limited to the interstate medical compact, which allows physicians to submit a single licensure application in all participating states where they provide care. Kansas participates in the compact and did not lower licensing standards to those of other states.

One of the conditions for medical licensure in Kansas is to carry at least a million dollars in professional liability coverage and to purchase a portion of that coverage from the Health Care Stabilization Fund ("the fund"). The fund is a unique private/public partnership that is fully funded by the premiums of the participating health care providers. Because of the mandatory requirement for insurance coverage, the fund also offers a high risk pool for those unable to purchase coverage on the private market. The fund ensures that all Kansas patients receiving care from a defined health care provider have a right to recovery in the event of an adverse medical outcome. When we exempt certain providers from the requirement to purchase coverage and participate in the fund, we also undermine the mechanism which undergirds our medical malpractice climate and a patients right to recovery. This is the most concerning aspect of SB 131 and other proposals which create licensure exemptions.

SB 131 is very narrowly drafted and does not allow these physicians to provide care to anyone outside of the team or off the field of play. They are not given hospital privileges. It also requires they are board certified and in good standing in their home state.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.