



March 20, 2023

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Testimony Neutral on HB 2340

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

The Behavioral Health Association of Kansas (BHAK) is the state's trade organization dedicated to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and prevention providers seeking integrated behavioral health care. BHAK believes that true integrated behavioral health means access and funding for mental illness and substance use disorder treatment without regard to where a consumer seeks services. We appreciate the growing awareness of how substance use disorder affects everyone, particularly as a result of the impact of the pandemic. Addictions issues impact health care, employment, public safety, child welfare, and we support your investment of energy and resources.

We support the goal and purpose of House Bill 2340 but seek modifications to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of our state's behavioral health system. Our members provide SUD treatment, behavioral health services, and prevention services throughout Kansas. We experience the same critical workforce issues impacting all employers, but particularly health care employers, and even more directly the behavioral health employers. We compete with all our peer organizations, including private employers, schools, hospitals, treatment facilities, community mental health centers and others. Our members serve Medicaid patients, federal block grant patients, and provide the bulk of Senate Bill 123 treatment services and our services are essential.

The benefits of new "community-based" license includes the requirement of employment by a community mental health center to receive the proposed new status, expressed in HB 2340 with specific licenses as "in the scope of employment by a community mental health center." Our favored corrective language we have discussed with the Association of Community Mental Health Centers would be that used on page 41, lines 2-12 underlined:

(i) ... "a licensed or certified alcohol and other drug abuse program, a certified community behavioral health clinic or a community mental health center."

This bill with our amendment helps address behavioral health provider workforce needs for all who serve the publicly funded behavioral health system. I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Stuart J. Little, [stuartjlittle@mac.com](mailto:stuartjlittle@mac.com), 785-845-7265