

TESTIMONY on HB 2047

February 8, 2011

House Aging and Long Term Care

Presented by Sky Westerlund, LMSW

Good morning Chairman Bethell and members of the Committee, I am Sky Westerlund, Executive Director of the Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers. Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you this morning about HB 2047.

KNASW supports the need for mental health services for the aged populations. HB 2047 provides necessary services and treatment in the person's residence, wherever that may be. The flexibility of being able to visit clients in their own home increases the access to care.

KNASW identified some language that could be confusing regarding the providers of mental health treatment. The language "qualified mental health professionals" is vague. In order to avoid confusion and include all of the appropriately licensed persons who can provide mental health treatment we offer an amendment that includes three groups of people: physicians; nurses; and persons licensed through the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board.

This language clarifies who is qualified to provide the mental health treatment in an elder's home or other place of residence. KNASW asks for favorable passage of the amendment and the legislation.

HOUSE AGING & LTC

DATE: 2/8/11

ATTACHMENT # 6