



To: Rep. Bob Bethell, Chair, and Members,
House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee
From: Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs
Date: February 16, 2012

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2697

Thank you, Chairman Bethell and Members of the Committee. I am Rachel Monger, the Director of Government Affairs for LeadingAge Kansas, formerly known as KAHSA. Our 160 members include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living and residential health care residences, homes plus, low income housing, licensed home health agencies and other community based service programs throughout Kansas.

LeadingAge Kansas supports HB 2697. We believe that changing Medicaid eligibility rules to allow collateral assignment of a Medicaid recipient's life insurance policy would provide an efficient and effective tool for enhancing the State's Medicaid Estate Recovery Program.

Many times our members provide unreimbursed care to residents while they are applying for Medicaid benefits. When the resident is approved for Medicaid, the State will reimburse the home for the care it provided during the approval process, stretching back to the date the resident actually qualified for benefits. However, the Medicaid eligibility date the State agency decides on does not always match up with the date the person was without funds and unable to pay their bill. As a result, nursing homes are often stuck with an unpaid bill, sometimes totaling several months' worth of unreimbursed care. We believe this to be an unfair burden to place on nursing homes willing to provide care to Medicaid eligible residents.

Therefore, we would request an amendment to HB 2697 which would allow an adult care home to be paid any outstanding balances on the deceased's account from the life insurance proceeds, prior to their transfer to the State.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would be pleased to answer any questions.