



TESTIMONY  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
HB 2159  
January 23, 2012

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine. Thank you for allowing me to comment on HB 2159.

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM) is in opposition to HB 2159.

HB 2159 eliminates the required referral from a physician in order for a physical therapist to treat patients. Additionally, HB 2159 expands the length of time a physical therapist may treat patients without notifying a physician from 30 days to 45 days.

After lengthy discussions, KAOM came to the conclusion that, if passed, HB 2159 will disrupt continuity of care, eliminate important safe guards, and possibly delay important treatment. Additionally, health conditions outside of the physical therapist's scope of practice and/or range of knowledge could go undetected and exacerbate a patient's medical condition.

A member of KAOM's Executive Committee reported he had a patient who came to him with pain in his right leg. The patient wanted a referral to a physical therapist. Dr. Knackstedt agreed with the referral to a physical therapist, but first ran some routine tests. The tests revealed an embolism. Had the patient bypassed the physician and gone directly to a physical therapist, the condition could have gone undetected resulting in severe medical consequences. As it turned out, the embolism was treated and the patient had a positive outcome.

KAOM encourages the Committee to vote against passage of HB 2159.

Thank you.