

Testimony on:

HB 2055

Presented to:

House Federal and State Affairs

By:

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Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 2055. The Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) is an association of 45 primary care safety net clinics who share the mission of increasing access to primary health care services, regardless of a patients' ability to pay, and who provide health care services to more than 241,000 people throughout the state at 85 clinic sites.

Some of our clinics are in state or municipal buildings. While we all support efforts for adequate security measures taken for the safety of all our patients and employees, I ask that you amend HB 2055 to exclude safety net clinics from this requirement.

I respectfully ask that you add in Section 3, page 5, subsection (17) "any indigent health care clinic organized pursuant to KSA 65-7402." The term "indigent health care clinic" is used in statute when referencing safety net clinics. The bill already includes many similar exemptions including mental health centers, schools, and day care homes. I hope you agree that my request is in line with the current exemptions already included in the bill.

Our safety net clinics' resources are stretched to the breaking point in their efforts to provide care for all who are in need, and the current budget includes a cut to their state funding. Simply put, they do not have the resources necessary to provide the security system required for their buildings in HB 2055.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and to request an amendment for HB 2055.