



**KANSAS FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

1200 S. Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66612-1375  
785-232-7789 785-232-7791 fax [www.ksfda.org](http://www.ksfda.org)

**OFFICERS**

President  
SHANE BROWN  
*Gardner*

President-Elect  
SAM STEINER  
*Junction City*

Vice President  
ADAM RENTSCHLER  
*Smith Center*

Sec./Treasurer  
GLENN WHITE  
*Pittsburg*

Immediate  
Past President  
BILL NICHOLSON  
*Hoisington*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ROBERT DAVIS  
*Kansas City*

DONNA  
MATHENA-MENKE  
*Topeka*

MARTY MENDICKI  
*Parsons*

TOM ELLIOTT  
*Hutchinson*

ERIC LARRISON  
*Pratt*

JOSHUA MEYER  
*Concordia*

Policy Board  
Representative  
DARIN BRADSTREET  
*Garden City*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

PAM SCOTT  
*Topeka*

December 14, 2016

To: Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards

From: Pam Scott, Executive Director  
Kansas Funeral Directors Association

Re: Testimony Regarding Reorganization of Public Health Boards

Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee, I am Pam Scott, Executive Director of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association (KFDA). The KFDA appreciates the opportunity to appear before you today concerning the possible reorganization of public health boards. The KFDA represents over three hundred funeral homes across the state of Kansas.

The KFDA is opposed to the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts (KSBMA) being placed under the umbrella of a super public health agency. We believe the KSBMA is a very efficiently run agency that is very responsive to the public and licensees. It regulates our profession well.

The KFDA is supportive of examining ways to find efficiencies within the agency. Doing so keeps the licensing fees paid by our members in check. That being said, we believe the KSBMA is very streamlined and makes a conscience effort to find ways to make do with the minimal amount of funding necessary to operate the agency. Since the agency is fee funded, if more efficiencies could be found, there would be no state fiscal impact. The only benefit would be to licensees who pay fees.

Funeral service is a very specialized field, somewhat different than many other health related professions under consideration to be placed in the umbrella agency. We do not believe it belongs under the umbrella health care agency that is being considered. It is important to our members that the staff of the KSBMA has funeral service experience. In fact they currently have 88 years of combined funeral service experience. The KSBMA staff has the expertise to serve both the public and licensees. The staff of a multi-discipline super agency will likely lack the expertise in the area of funeral service which the public and licensees deserve. Understandably the staff could not be experts in all the different disciplines that they will be expected to regulate. Licensing and regulatory laws of a profession, including funeral service, are complicated and take extensive time to become an expert on. The KSBMA staff has that expertise and we don't want to lose it.

I occasionally have the need to contact the mortuary science regulatory agencies of other states to inquire about their state statutes or regulations. From my experience when I have contacted other states' agencies that are under such a large consolidated super agency system, I am often frustrated because I am unable to get answers to my questions because there is not the same level of expertise as to funeral service issues there is in Kansas. Often my telephone call is transferred numerous times because no one knows who I should talk to or knows the answer to my question. In Kansas, I can always reach someone with expertise that will answer my question immediately. The same holds true for our member licensees. Such is even more important for the consumer who may have just experienced the loss of a loved one. Getting a response is often time sensitive and the consumer shouldn't have to deal with bureaucracy at a time they are in a state of grief because they have just experienced a loss. Public service is important. The KSBMA also does a lot of public education which is important and which we wonder whether the staff of a multi-profession agency would chose to do..

The KSBMA is a totally fee funded agency and therefore licensees in Kansas pay for their regulation. The KSBMA reimburses the state for services they provide to the agency. We assume the state calculated the cost of those services when they determined the amount that would be charged to fee funded agencies for the services. Therefore, the state of Kansas will gain no revenue by moving fee funded agencies to an umbrella agency. Again, we know the KSBMA strives to be efficient and lean in order to keep licensing fees at a reasonable level. Our members appreciate that but they are willing to pay more for the value they receive and the great customer service the KSBMA provides to them and the public.

In conclusion, in our opinion the current method of regulation is working extremely well. The KFSA believes a structural change in the regulatory system of fee funded agencies such as the KSBMA will not result in efficiencies and will likely lower the level of service and regulation provided for the benefit of the public and licensees. Therefore, we ask that the KSBMA not be placed under a huge public health agency system.