

Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards

December 12, 2016

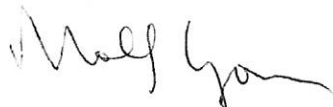
Dear Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

I have been an audiologist in the state of Kansas for nearly 40 years. I have worked in schools, hospitals, early intervention facilities, and clinics. I know many audiologists in the state and nearly all do not support the existence of our "two board" profession (Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners and Kansas Department of Aging & Disability). The exception to this is audiologists who are employed in "hearing aid dispensing" practices. I am not sure why this is the case, but I suspect it is somehow related to financial gains.

I do not understand why I must carry two licenses with two different regulations. I pay \$135 every two years to maintain my audiologist license in the state of Kansas through KDAD and obtain 20 continuing education hours. The KBHAE requires \$100 every year, and I must obtain 10 hours of continuing education every year. I do not see what this \$100 a year does for me. KBHAE collects the fees from every audiologist and every hearing instrument specialist in Kansas with no one overseeing the actions of this Board. It reports directly to the Governor, as it is one of only a few "stand alone" boards in Kansas. Why? I doubt the Governor has the time to regulate and monitor the functioning of this Board.

I fully support the KBHAE be placed under the current licensing board for all audiologists, the Kansas Department of Aging & Disability. For the past 30 years, almost as long as I can remember, this has been advocated for by the majority of audiologists. I have always been told that it just won't happen because the hearing instrument specialists have "deep pockets" and have lobbyists who "really look out for them." I am tired of hearing this explanation, and would like to see the profession streamlined because it is the right thing to do. I know of no other professional required to have two licenses. Please take this opportunity to consolidate these Boards. It just makes sense to do so.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Lyon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molly Lyon, MA, CCC-A/SP, LSLS-AVEd
Audiologist/Speech Language Pathologist
Wichita, KS