



Founded 1942

# Kansas Psychiatric Society

To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Brad Grinage, Legislative Chair

Date: March 12, 2018

Re: House Bill 2688

Representative Waymaster and members of the committee, my name is Brad Grinage. I am a practicing psychiatrist in the state of Kansas and am appearing before you here today in my capacity as the legislative chair of the Kansas Psychiatric Society. For those of you that are not familiar with the Kansas Psychiatric Society, it is a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association whose members have been serving the citizens of the state of Kansas since its establishment in 1942.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the support of the KPS regarding House Bill 2688 which would establish the behavioral health task force to study the behavioral health system in the state of Kansas. On behalf of our membership we believe that this comprehensive approach and diverse makeup of membership has the best possibility of providing real impact and information from which the legislature can act.

Our behavioral health system is in dire need of top to bottom review to enable Kansas to move forward with its continuing effort to have the best mental health system in the United States. This bill has the correct makeup of key experts to aid you in that endeavor.

We greatly appreciate the foresight of the diversity of expertise among the selected membership to gain as much knowledge and perspective as possible. Thank you for including the KPS in that distinguished group of members.

As always, the KPS stands ready to aid and assist the Kansas Legislature in any way possible to help those affected by the mental illness, addiction and other behavioral health challenges.

Thank you for the time to express the support of the KPS for HB 2688.