



February 7, 2018

Chair Davis and members of the House Committee on Children and Seniors, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of HB 2530. This bill would add certified emergency medical services crews to the list of individuals required to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of residents of adult care homes; medical care facilities; state psychiatric hospitals or any adult in need of protective services.

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) is a not-for-profit organization, beholden to no commercial interests and is supported almost entirely by donations from citizens who support our mission of improving the quality of care in all long-term settings. KABC was among a handful of non-profit consumer advocacy groups which worked to win passage of the Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987.

KABC supports adding these EMTs as mandatory reporters because they add another set of protective eyes on vulnerable older adults. Whether they are living in their own homes, in the home of a family member or in an adult care facility, frail, older adults may be vulnerable to physical, mental and/or financial abuse, neglect and exploitation. Adding the oversight of more than 10,600 certified providers in Kansas will significantly aid in the safety of vulnerable, older adults.

We appreciate the efforts of the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association to bring Kansas mandatory reporting laws in line with those of surrounding states. We ask this committee to support HB 2530.

Mitzi E. McFatrach, on behalf of volunteers and members