

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.
Little Government Relations, LLC

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House Health and Human Services Committee

**Testimony in Opposition to
House Bill 2149**

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Little and I am the association manager for the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP). KAAP is the state's only professional association dedicated solely to substance use disorder treatment and prevention providers. We represent providers in Kansas who work as non-profits, for profits, local governments, and individuals in private practice.

Our members employ Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) licensed social workers, addiction counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, as well as some professions licensed by the Board of Healing Arts. KAAP is opposed to the legislation that would weaken the benefits to all similar professions who share a common regulatory structure and focus. Each licensed profession shares consistent and mirrored regulatory structures and procedures when the combined governing board works together for the benefit of all licensed professions. Additionally, each licensed profession shares through their licensing fees the financial burden of state required and public demanded regulation, oversight, and sanctions. Collectively, within the BSRB all licensed individuals share proportionally those costs. Extraction of the largest group of regulatory members from the BSRB membership pool will certainly have consequences for the financial and mission of the agency. Finally, House Bill 2149 may mean increase costs for the BSRB and that means increased costs of all of the other licenses professions.

We oppose House Bill 2149.