



To: Chairman Caryn Tyson
Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

From: J. Ben Quinton
William Newton Hospital Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 13, 2017

RE: Proponent for Senate Bill 203 to designate Cowley County as a ROZ

On behalf of the William Newton Hospital (WNH) board of trustees, administration and staff, I would like to offer our continued support in favor of passing Senate Bill 203 to add Cowley County to the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ).

As a Critical Access Hospital serving rural Cowley County, the recruitment of skilled healthcare providers to our community is one of our greatest challenges. It is a top priority for the future of our hospital. Physicians are among graduates with the highest amount of student loan debt. The years earning a minimal salary during residency compound this effect.

This bill will positively impact our ability to attract talented physicians and other healthcare professionals on a national scale through eligibility for income tax credit abatements and student loan reimbursements.

If added, our organization also plans to utilize the business sponsorship piece to recruit qualified employees to Cowley County. William Newton Hospital commits to matching \$1,500 for employees that we recruit that meet the program requirements of moving to Cowley County and carrying student loan debt.

Thank you for your consideration of this designation that will help improve workforce recruitment incentives for Cowley County, and ultimately the State of Kansas. WNH highly encourages the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ben Quinton', is positioned above the printed name.

J. Ben Quinton
William Newton Hospital
Chief Executive Officer