



Kansas Public Health Association

- Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas

March 8, 2017

Robert Moser, M.D., President
Kansas Public Health Association
House Bill 2094
Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

Chairman Bowers and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) mission is "Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas". KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2094.

Promoting health and preventing disease and injury is the cornerstone of public health but with reduced funding for public health over the last two decades at the local, state and federal levels, our local health systems have to find more creative ways of accomplishing their missions. Sometimes the best route to do this is a cross-jurisdictional approach and a few local health departments in Kansas have successfully used this whether it's to provide maternal and child health activities across a region or to improve emergency preparedness readiness. House Bill 2094 allows for an easier process through contracting between municipalities than the more challenging interlocal agreements as per K.S.A. 12-2901.

We believe that the challenges to provide local health care services in some of our rural communities could also benefit from the changes proposed in House Bill 2094 as getting approval from the Kansas Attorney General's office for this type of arrangement across jurisdictions has been challenging in the past. Having worked across county lines in the past to provide medical care in other counties, I know this bill will be an improvement and can also benefit other collaborative efforts at other levels across Kansas.

The Kansas Public Health Association supports House Bill 2094 and encourages this committee to approve it. Thank you Chairman Bowers, and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Robert Moser, M.D.

President, Kansas Public Health Association

