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"A Branch of the American Counseling Association"

Testimony re: SB 386
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By
Andrew Secor
President-Elect, Kansas Counseling Association
February 15, 2018

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Secor, President-Elect of the Kansas Counseling Association (KCA). The KCA represents professional counselors throughout the State of Kansas. As a branch of the American Counseling Association (ACA), KCA is committed to the licensing of professional counselors throughout the State of Kansas that meet the academic and clinical training requirements to become a licensed professional counselor (LPC).

SB 386 proposes a change to the language of the professional counseling licensure criteria to include individuals from a "related profession" and not only those individuals who have a counseling degree. KCA supports licensing only of those individuals who meet the academic and training standards to become a professional counselor. With that said, lacking the term "counseling" in one's degree, while meeting all other academic and training requirements for professional counseling, should not prevent an otherwise trained individual from obtaining licensure in Kansas.

For these reasons, KCA does not object to the proposed changes in the licensure criteria as stated in SB 386. The current process of determining an individual's eligibility for licensure as a professional counselor should continue to ensure that only individuals who meet professional counseling academic and training requirements become licensed to practice in Kansas. This process ensures the protection of the public and the profession by providing licensure only to those individuals who have the knowledge and experience to provide professional counseling services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony,

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Wright
KCA President

Andrew Secor
KCA President-Elect
KCA Mental Health Legislative and Advocacy Chair

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