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House Children and Seniors March 22, 2019

HB 2404 Proponent

Chairwoman Concannon and Committee Members:

I am Cindy Luxem, President and CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and the Kansas Center for Assisted Living. KHCA and KCAL represent the interests of Kansans long term care (LTC) providers- nonprofit and proprietary. Skilled Nursing (SNF), Assisted Living (AL), Home Plus (HP) Residential Care (RCF), Nursing Facilities for Mental Health (NFMH) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) make up our membership. We are considered a federation so we have affiliates in all fifty states with the American Health Care Association being our main group. Former Governor Mark Parkinson is the CEO of AHCA. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day. The communities that care for these elders employ almost 30,000 Kansans.

We ask for your support of HB 2404, establishing the Kansas senior services task force.

Systems analysis. Evidence based decision making. Root cause analysis. These aren't just the latest buzz words for quality improvement. These are best practice methods for making real change.

HB 2404 establishes the Kansas senior services task force that is a move in the right direction how we as a state look at senior care. Visioning - we must look to the future needs of our Kansas elders to assure that we are building capacity to meet their needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to help navigate the future of Kansas elder care. It is important for all of us.

Thank you for your time today.

Cindy Luxem