



# *Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc.*

P.O. Box 10085  
Olathe, KS 66061

March 7, 2020

Representative Steve Huebert, Chairperson  
House Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 286-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Testimony in **Support of SB 230**

Dear Representative Steve Huebert and Members of the House Education Committee,

For 111 years the Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc. (KAD), has steadfastly and resolutely pursued its mission to preserve, protect and promote the civil, human and linguistic rights of Deaf\* Kansans, of which there are approximately 210,000 that KAD represents. KAD supports SB 230 as it too will continue to preserve, protect and promote the rights of Deaf Kansans. Your vote to pass SB 230 will strengthen protections for marginalized Deaf Kansans.

SB 230 reinforces and strengthens the current statutes authorizing Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) to maintain strict oversight of interpreters' adherence to professional ethics, as well as assuring safe and reliable communication access that impacts the physical, psychological, and financial well-being of Deaf Kansans.

KAD and its members are all too familiar with instances of interpreters taking on assignments beyond their skill set without consideration of the unethical, and harmful ramifications of interpretation errors and omissions. Interpreters with such self-serving behavior display a blatant disregard of ethics and showcase a pervasive and problematic mentality of, "getting away with it." In addition, some interpreters have betrayed the public's trust by not being sufficiently rehabilitated following a felony offense or a misdemeanor against persons. These interpreters knowingly disregard KCDHH's authority to implement safety measures and enforce compliance.

Therefore, SB 230 enhances and validates KCDHH's long-standing authority to assert and deem such interpreters or communication access issues as unsafe for the Deaf community, and the general public. KAD asks each of you to vote YES in support of SB 230.

Respectfully,

KAD President

CC: KAD Board of Directors  
Social Justice/K-CAP Committee  
Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

\*Deaf includes all individuals who share similar experiences and realities throughout their life journey.