



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: February 23, 2021

Subject: SB 170; Concerning the Advisory Committee on Trauma

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of SB 170, which provides for the continuation of the Advisory Committee on Trauma (ACT). The ACT advises the KDHE Secretary on the development and operation of the statewide trauma system. The committee is made up of individuals representing both rural and urban interests who have expertise in EMS and trauma care, and includes representatives from health care provider organizations, regional trauma councils, EMS organizations, and also includes legislative members. The ACT assists KDHE in monitoring availability of trauma resources statewide, developing education and training programs, ensuring compliance with system standards, providing oversight and guidance to the regional trauma councils and reviewing and evaluating trauma care and outcomes at a system level.

SB 170 is largely technical in nature from a policy standpoint, in that it merely continues the Advisory Committee which has been in existence for the past twenty-one years. Originally enacted in 1999, the provisions for the ACT were originally scheduled to sunset later this year. This bill was introduced in the 2020 legislative session as HB 2527, and it would likely have passed but for the abbreviated session caused by the COVID pandemic.

The Advisory Committee is working well, and it provides important private sector, provider-based experience and input to the Department and regional trauma councils in its advisory capacity. The ACT is an essential component in the state's trauma system responsibilities providing general oversight and guidance, education, review of care and outcomes, and education. We encourage your favorable consideration of SB 170, and thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.