



Date: March 18, 2021

To: Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

From: Vicki Whitaker, KAOM Executive Director

Subj: **Written Proponent Testimony on HB 2158:** AN ACT concerning...statewide trauma system regional council

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2158. This legislation will provide for the continuation of the Advisory Committee on Trauma (ACT). ACT serves to review and advise the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) Secretary on the statewide trauma system.

The ACT brings together Kansans from rural and urban areas representing physicians, nurses, trauma councils, EMS, and the Legislature to confidentially review the operations of the state's trauma centers, trauma center resources, identify education and training needs and develop programs to address needs, compliance with trauma system standards, and provide oversight and guidance to the regional trauma councils on evaluation and outcomes related to trauma systems.

The Advisory Council on Trauma was enacted in 1999 and since its creation it has proven to be a valuable and needed tool which provides essential real-world insight to KDHE and the regional trauma councils. As noted above the work by ACT is done confidentially which allows for a free exchange of opinions and issues concerning trauma center operations. Because ACT has proven itself as a valuable part of trauma care, passage of HB 2158 and removal of the need to renew it every five years and maintaining the ACT privileged work product are all recommended by KAOM.

Ensuring the continuation of the ACT will help keep a statewide system on trauma response functioning well. For this reason, KAOM requests your favorable passage of HB 2158.