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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

Testimony by Dennis Kriesel with the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) to the

House Committee on Social Services Budget

In-Person Proponent for HB 2330 • February 21, 2023

Chairman Mason and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and testify in support of House Bill 2330, a bill adjusting the formula for state assistance to local health departments. My name is Dennis Kriesel, I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), a nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening local health departments for the purpose of improving and protecting the health of all Kansans. KALHD consists of all 100 local health departments in Kansas.

HB 2330 adjusts the statutory formula found in K.S.A. 65-242 which governs how certain state general fund monies budgeted to help local health departments are distributed. The SFY 2023 amount allocated under this formula is approximately \$4 million.

HB 2330 does the following:

- Changes the minimum of \$7,000 to \$12,000 per county.
 - KDHE does currently apply the minimum in their calculations by county rather than health department (this spells that out; avoids creating a financial disincentive to multi-county health departments).
 - The base only applies if there is enough budgeted to cover this base amount. If not, whatever amount is budgeted is divided equally among the local health departments.
- Allocates any budgeted funding left over after providing the \$12,000 base payments via the proportion of the population each local health department covers.
- Maintains the requirement that local health departments need to receive at least as much from local tax revenues as they will receive from the state formula and maintains the provision that if a local health department sees a reduction in local tax revenues in a given fiscal year then their state formula allocation will fall by the same percentage for that fiscal year.

We seek these changes because the current formula keeps a lot of smaller population health departments stuck at a minimum level of funding. The Legislature has allocated more funding into the State Formula the last couple of years but unless the amount is large enough to overcome the minimum calculation set in the current law many local health

departments won't actually see any benefit from the increases. HB 2330 will fix this by giving out a base amount and then fully sharing the remaining balance. The largest populations will still proportionally get the most money, but should the Legislature provide funding enhancements all local health departments would see some level of benefit.

Note, none of these changes cost the State of Kansas anything. This does not commit the State to any particular financial spend level. It just restructures how the money is sent out.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 2330. We ask the committee to recommend it favorably for passage and I will stand for questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kriesel

Executive Director, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments