

**SALINE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



We are good for your health!

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Saline County Health Department
125 W. Elm
Salina, KS 67401

Testimony by Jason Tiller with the Saline County Health Department to

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Written Opponent for SB 234 • March 21, 2023

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 234 prohibiting governmental entities from sharing or transmitting social care information into a closed loop referral system.

SB 234, if passed, would have serious negative consequences on providing and coordinating social care services to our populations. Closed loop referral systems have several layers of built-in security and segmenting of information to prevent others from seeing client information they are not privileged to see. Over the course of one encounter with a client, multiple referrals may need to be generated which would cause the client to sign multiple consent forms. This would create a burdensome level of resource use on the health department, but more importantly, would create a burdensome level of resource use on the client to sign each consent. Furthermore, referrals may be rejected because of capacity issues or several other reasons causing the client further issues such as trying to find a ride, taking time off work or missing school to simply come back to the health department to sign another consent. This scenario would only accomplish prolonging clients from receiving the services they need. Clients are informed throughout their care of what agencies they will be referred to and adding another layer of bureaucracy does nothing to serve their best interest.

Privacy Laws protecting health information (i.e. HIPAA) already exist. Care coordination across multiple agencies is necessary to ensure the right care at the right places through efficient referral processes such as those offered through closed loop referral systems that help ensure clients do not fall between the cracks in their care.

I ask that you do not recommend the passage of SB 234 out of committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason K. Tiller".

Jason K. Tiller, Director
Saline County Health Department