



House Health and Human Services Committee

Written Testimony on HB 2512 – Telemedicine

Alexia Foster
President, Tiny-k Alliance

February 1, 2018

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB 2512** regarding telemedicine. The Tiny-k Alliance supports the intent of the bill, but respectfully requests that the committee expand the scope of telemedicine services to include occupational, physical and speech-language therapies.

The bill, as we understand it, limits coverage parity and continuity of care to physicians and mental health providers that are licensed under the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board. As a result, many of the medically based therapies needed by infants and toddlers with disabilities would not be covered.

The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires that children with disabilities receive necessary services – they can be delivered in a home, community or school-based setting. Telemedicine offers an opportunity for a more efficient delivery model, especially in those areas where there is a shortage of qualified professionals.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony and urge the committee to expand the scope of telemedicine services to include occupational, physical and speech-language therapies so that we can best meet the needs of those infants and toddlers with disabilities.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me. I am the Assistant Coordinator for Rainbows United, Infant and Toddler Services of Sedgwick County, a Tiny-k network, and can be reached at (316) 945-7117 or at afoster@rui.org.

The Tiny-k Alliance is a statewide organization that supports the 33 Kansas providers of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs.

The Tiny-k Alliance promotes high-quality services and sound public policy for infants with developmental disabilities through advocacy, resource development and strategic partnerships.