



KANSAS | CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
NORTON
103 S. Wabash Ave.
P.O. Box 510
Norton, KS 67654
785 / 877 / 5111 PH
785 / 877 / 2322 FX
valleyhope.org

**Testimony of Pat George
President and CEO, Valley Hope Association
In Support of HB 2106**

**Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Jan. 17, 2018**

Good morning Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee. My testimony is in support of House Bill 2106, which would authorize the state to give “deemed status” to addiction treatment organizations already accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Services; The Joint Commission; the Council on Accreditation; or another national accrediting body approved by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

Valley Hope is non-profit addiction treatment provider with 16 facilities in seven states. Over the past 35 years, Valley Hope has sought The Joint Commission accreditation for every facility in our continuum. This accreditation is highly regarded in the healthcare industry, and organizations that are awarded it are considered the gold standard within the industry. When an organization seeks The Joint Commission accreditation, they must meet rigorous standards that must be renewed every three years. In general, these standards are more stringent than state regulations but also mirror a lot of the same requirements.

Since The Joint Commission accreditation is rigorous, thorough and highly regarded, it would allow organizations given “deemed status” to spend less time and resources on inspections and more time treating patients.

In addition to the time commitment, this also would allow for financial savings. As Valley Hope is a charitable organization, any financial savings allows us to assist more individuals with the chronic disease of Substance Use Disorder.

Our organization has been given “deemed status” in Arizona, Missouri and Nebraska. We know this process to be an efficient and effective way to continue our national accreditation and state licensing.

As you know, HB 2106 passed the House unanimously in February 2017. Valley Hope applauds the Senate’s consideration of this legislation allowing institutions that have already achieved a national accreditation to focus on their mission without having to go through an additional licensing process by the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony today.

###