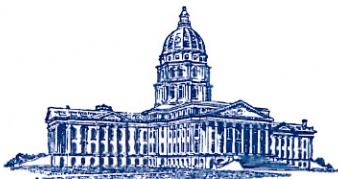


# State of Kansas

## Senate Chamber

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Mr. Vice Chair and fellow members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to advocate for SB 381, which expands our current Kansas Medical Student Loan (KMSL) program.

It is before you for consideration because Kansas is one of only four states that does not include obstetrics-gynecology (ob-gyn) in a rural and underserved loan repayment program. Currently, there are NO ob-gyn practitioners in 77 of our 105 counties. This is concerning because our rural residents have a 9% greater probability of death or severe maternal morbidity, which is potentially life-threatening complications or the need to undergo a lifesaving procedure during or following childbirth (Kozhimannil, Interrante, Henning-Smith & Admon, 2019). Additionally, rural Kansas is experiencing a higher rate of preterm births.

When we consider the shortages of medical personnel in our Community Health Centers (CHCs), more than one-fifth of the full-term vacancies are for ob-gyn positions. CHCs continue to have difficulty recruiting and filling these vacancies in rural and underserved Kansas areas.

SB 381 provides rural and underserved communities with:

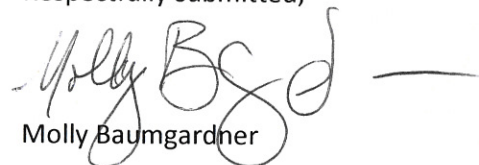
- Access to specialized medical care to address gynecological cancers, reproductive health, pre- and post-natal care
- Access to specialized medical management of life-threatening complications Prevention and reduction of preterm births and maternal morbidity and mortality

SB 381 has several guardrails:

- Separate from the family practice KMSL program
- Payment claw back if the practitioner leaves Kansas
- Inclusion of Hyde Amendment language

I hope you will support passage of SB 381 from our committee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Molly Baumgardner