



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony of John Smith, Stanton County Commissioner  
Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
In Support of Senate Bill No. 118  
February 20, 2019**

Member Counties

*Barber*

*Barton*

*Clark*

*Ellis*

*Finney*

*Ford*

*Gove*

*Grant*

*Gray*

*Hamilton*

*Harper*

*Haskell*

*Hodgeman*

*Kearny*

*Kiowa*

*Lane*

*Logan*

*Meade*

*Morton*

*Ness*

*Norton*

*Rawlins*

*Rice*

*Rush*

*Russell*

*Scott*

*Seward*

*Sherman*

*Stanton*

*Stevens*

*Thomas*

*Trego*

*Wallace*

*Wichita*

Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 34 rural Kansas counties. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in support of Senate Bill No. 118.

Senate Bill No. 118, by amending K.S.A. 19-4625, clarifies when there is a closure of a county hospital, the county in which the hospital is located would not be responsible for any debts or obligations incurred by the hospital or hospital board.

Our members endorse this proposal brought forth by Stafford County.

Rural communities contain a number of community owned hospital facilities but the Board of County Commissioners has no say in the hospital board's administration, management or financial obligations and should not be responsible for any liabilities when a facility ceases to operate.

As our hospitals continue to be challenged by potential closures, Senate Bill No. 118 makes it clear a county has no legal responsibility for hospital debt they did not incur.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I encourage your favorable passage of Senate Bill No. 118.

John Smith  
President