

To: House Appropriations Committee, Representative Troy Waymaster, Chairperson

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 10, 2021

Re: HB 2174 – Establishing the rural hospital innovation grant program to assist rural hospitals

Chairman Waymaster and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of HB 2174. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

Kansas Farm Bureau supports access to high quality and affordable health care for all Kansans. Specifically, KFB supports initiatives that will improve access to health care in rural portions of the state. KFB believes that the rural hospital grant program is an idea that could prove successful through a public/private partnership. The requirement to have the grant evenly matched by private sources will help to ensure that there is local buy-in into the programs that the grant will fund.

While there are many ideas regarding how to ensure rural health care continues to provide adequate medical care, KFB tends to agree that local solutions will generally have the greatest likelihood of success.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for continuing to discuss this important issue. We support the passage of HB 2174 and encourage you to join us in working to ensure rural Kansans can access the health care they need.