



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
CARING FOR KANSANS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2632

February 16, 2022

Chair Concannon and Members of the House Committee on Children and Seniors:

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents more than 450 pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow up safe and strong. The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) represents nearly 2,000 physicians and medical students statewide. A family physician takes care of the whole family, all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity. Both KAAP and KAFP would like to share enthusiastic support for the CARE provider amendment to Adrian's Law, HB 2632.

Primary care physicians in Kansas believes that this amendment will provide the framework and workforce to allow appropriate and timely follow up for reports of child physical abuse and neglect. I believe we all have the collective goal of protecting our most vulnerable children, and this will take us closer to accomplishing that by putting a system of support in place for all Kansas physicians and medical providers.

Physicians and other primary care providers in rural areas of the state are already the ones who see these children when an exam is needed. The CARE provider amendment would provide these physicians with additional training to become "CARE Providers". Training and mentorship would be provided by board certified Child Abuse Pediatricians in Kansas providing easy access to a robust system of support that does not currently exist in rural areas.

The program is already statewide in Missouri, with a network of providers across the state in both rural and urban areas. In rural areas in Missouri, for example, it allows children to be seen by providers in their own county or region, rather than having to travel further distances for a medical evaluation.

Additionally, the bill allows for appropriate compensation for the CARE Providers to perform these time intensive exams. This will require \$500,000 SGF in KDHE's budget in order to both establish the reimbursement system, as well as for funding and facilitation of training providers to become CARE certified. We have met with the chairs of the appropriate budget committees and are pursuing inclusion of the \$500,000 in KDHE's budget. Funding will not be added unless the bill passes. Therefore, if the policy passes, we expect resolution of the funding piece during Omnibus.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill that will create a framework and workforce in Kansas to protect children from abuse and neglectful situations.



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Respectfully submitted,

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Kansas Academy of Family Physicians