



TO: House Social Services Budget Committee

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: House Bill 2253

On behalf of the members of the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) and Kansas Medical Society (KMS), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 2253 related to the prescription drug monitoring program, K-TRACS. This essential tool is important for Kansas, however, the issue of sustainable funding of the program remains. KHA and KMS strongly believes K-TRACS should be funded by the state. The ability to appropriately monitor prescription drug use and potential drug abuse saves the state funds in other areas, so we believe this should be an area of reinvestment in the K-TRACS System.

Kansas remains a national leader in the creation of a statewide prescription monitoring program that was signed into law in 2008. The program was implemented in 2010 after grant funding became available. The program has been an integral tool, providing prescribers and dispensers of controlled substances and other drugs of concern with data regarding patients who may be over-utilizing these medications or drug-seeking from multiple providers. With the integration of K-TRACS into electronic health records, a significant increase in utilization of the K-TRACS program has occurred. However, sustained, state general fund or grant funds should be used to support this critically important tool in the fight against drug abuse and to improve patient safety.

Long term, sustainable funding of KTRACs is essential to ensuring appropriate use of controlled substances. Our Kansas health care associations believe that the K-TRACS program should be funded through the state general fund in addition to whatever grant funds the program is able to obtain as it is an essential public health tool that ensures the appropriate use of controlled substances and other drugs of concern.

We would ask that if this committee works House Bill 2253, page 4, section (b) (1) and (2) be omitted.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.