



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo  
Executive Director

Date: February 16, 2021

Re: SB 175, establishing Rural Emergency Hospital Licensure

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of SB 175, establishing licensure of Rural Emergency Hospitals. Our state cannot meet the health care needs of our population without a strong network of financially viable community hospitals. The public expects access to hospitals to care for Kansans, but their ability to do so is increasingly threatened without the support that will be made available through this legislation.

SB 175 provides an opportunity for communities to maintain necessary primary and preventative care, chronic disease management and emergency healthcare services by accessing newly available funding streams. In order to comply with federal requirements and utilize sustaining funds available to those designated as Rural Emergency Hospitals, the facility must be located in a state with this type of licensure. Kansas needs to pass SB 175 to comply with these requirements and maintain sustainable access for rural Kansans.

Addressing the challenges that face healthcare in rural Kansas will require innovation, collaboration and commitment. SB 175 is a necessary step to ensuring communities are equipped to continue providing the care that Kansans depend upon. We respectfully urge your support of SB 175. Thank you.