



To: Senator Richard Hilderbrand, Chair and Members, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Date: March 23, 2021

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2114

LeadingAge Kansas is the state association for not-for-profit and faith-based aging services. We have 160 member organizations across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living, homes plus, senior housing, low-income housing, home health agencies, home and community-based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 older Kansans each day and employ more than 20,000 people across the state.

We are in strong support of HB 2214 and its goal of tackling issues in long term care that grow more urgent by the day as we face the largest demographic changes in history. The issues we face in our long term care system are long-standing and very complex. Any real effort at finding solutions requires thoughtful discussion that is grounded in experience, data and expertise. We hope that the taskforce will be less about competition and division and more about finding realistic and effective approaches to solving our problems. We believe that the organizations listed in the bill will provide a fair and complete picture of the long term care system, each of them adding a unique perspective and expertise.

We ask that the Committee please vote in favor of HB 2114 and help us get to work on tackling our many issues in long term care. Thank you.