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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

Testimony of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) to the

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Proponent for HB 2248 • March 24, 2021

Chairman Billinger and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2248 regarding increasing state financial assistance to local health departments under specified circumstances. KALHD is a nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening local health departments for the purpose of improving and protecting the health of all Kansans.

This bill accomplishes the following:

- 1) K.S.A. 65-242 has kept the minimum State Formula payment at \$7,000 since 1992, an amount which 68 out of 105 counties are assigned¹; this bill would increase that to \$15,000 if the State Formula has at least a \$3 million allocation.
- 2) The State Formula has been at \$2.2 million since 1992. With this \$3 million threshold we ensure the minimum increase will not decrease the larger health departments from their current allocations (all health departments would see more funding under this bill than they currently receive). The \$7,000 minimum would continue to be used if less than \$3 million is allocated to the State Formula.
- 3) This change has no fiscal impact itself; it merely prepares the system if a State Formula increase is included in KDHE's Health budget.
- 4) The statute will continue to have its maintenance of effort requirements on county governments to ensure they pay their fair share of local health department expenses.

It is for these reasons that KALHD supports HB 2248 and asks that you recommend it favorably. Thank you and I will stand for questions.

Respectfully,

Dennis Kriesel

Executive Director, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

¹ Current planned SFY 2022 state formula distribution figures are available at:
<https://khap2.kdhe.state.ks.us/KGMS/KGMSContent/documents/SF/2022%20SF/SFY2022%20State%20Formula%20Population-Award%20.pdf>