



HEIN GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTING, LLC

5845 SW 29th Street Topeka, KS 66614-2462
Phone 785-273-1441 Fax 785-273-9243 WWW.HEINGC.COM

**Testimony re: Organization of Public Health Boards
Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards
Presented by Ronald R. Hein
on behalf of the
Mental Health Credentialing Coalition
December 14, 2016**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Hein, and I am legislative counsel for the Mental Health Credentialing Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of the members of the Kansas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the Kansas Association of Masters in Psychology, and the Kansas Counseling Association.

The MHCC opposes the creation of a super-board for healthcare licensees in the state, and urges the committee not to recommend legislation either creating the super-board or combining the Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts, or any other two boards, as an initial step in accomplishing the creation of a super-board.

MHCC has several arguments for opposing introduction of legislation in this area. MHCC believes that such a move would be less efficient, would not save any tax or fee dollars, and would not be as effective in the performance of the regulatory functions for the regulated licensees.

No State General Fund (SGF) dollars are used by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) or any of the other health boards regulating health licensees. This concept is NOT about saving general taxpayer dollars. Fees paid by licensees to health boards are vigilantly monitored by the licensees themselves.

Regulated licensees insure that fee boards are efficient, effective, and possess the necessary expertise to serve their regulatory function. Fees charged to such regulated licensees, by necessity, remain in a reasonable range.

Creation of a super-board will NOT create more efficiency of the BSRB or any other such boards. Creating a super-board for health fee boards will NOT increase efficiency of the regulatory process. A super-board by necessity would require employees who have no expertise in the specific areas of the licensees being regulated. Such regulatory agencies have different governing laws, and different rules and regulations governing the regulated licenses. A super-board employee is not able to know all of the laws and regulations governing all of the health licensees the super-board would be regulating.

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The super-board will, by necessity, be less efficient, less effective, and less competent than the existing regulatory boards of the state.

We urge the committee to NOT introduce any legislation to create a health super-board or to combine any two boards as a first step to accomplishing a move towards such a super-board..

Thank you for permitting me to submit this written testimony.