Testimony of **[Insert Your Department Name]** to the

House Insurance Committee

Proponent for HB 2459 • **[Insert Current Date Here]**

Chairman Vickrey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 2459 regarding limits on utilization review conducted by health plans under certain circumstances involving the treatment of mental illness or substance abuse disorder. Local health departments are concerned with the health and well-being of all Kansans, and behavioral health issues are an area of serious concern around the State.

HB 2459 will make noteworthy strides for patients who are actively suicidal, are afflicted with suicidal ideation, or have a substance use disorder. In all three instances these patients are in a very vulnerable state. Immediate treatment is paramount. Funding for treatment is a critical component of the behavioral health system and insurance is obviously a part of that funding system. HB 2459 helps address these financial concerns by removing barriers related to concurrent review, prior authorization, and retrospective review. This means patients in need can avoid worrying about whether they can afford to seek help and instead go about getting help, confident that their insurance provider will cover the necessary expense.

HB 2459 makes strides in timely treatment by removing the delays associated with utilization review while still protecting the patient financially (by mandating coverage instead of leaving the patient to simply hope their insurance will do the right thing). It is for these reasons that the **[Insert Your Department Name]** supports HB 2459 and asks that you recommend it favorably.

Respectfully,

**[Signature Here]**

**[Name Here, Title]**

**[Department Name Here]**