Dear Representative [**Insert Last Name**],

My name is [**Insert Your First/Last Name**], and I am with the [**Insert Health Department Name**]. I wanted to reach out to you given you serve on the House Appropriations committee to see if you can assist in getting HB 2714 scheduled for a hearing. The bill is already referred to House Appropriations.

Local health departments have worked this session for an increase to what is commonly referred to as State Formula funding which departments like mine receive. We’ve been pursuing this through our professional association, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD). The House Social Services Budget committee has supported an increase of $1.9 million for this formula and we are very excited about this (the formula has not seen an increase since 1992).

This is where HB 2714 comes in. If funding is increased but KSA 65-242 is not modified then many rural health departments will see little impact. KSA 65-242 sets a minimum value (currently $7,000) and 68 of the 105 counties are allocated that minimum. HB 2714 increases that minimum to $15,000 but only if total funding exceeds a threshold of $3 million (this is done so that the larger counties are not punished if the minimum is adjusted but the funding enhancement fails to be enacted).

I would be happy to speak with you further about what we do at the health department and the value of State Formula funding. If you’d like to learn more about HB 2714 it would be best to reach out to KALHD’s Executive Director, Dennis Kriesel, at dennis.kriesel@kalhd.org or 785-271-8391 (he would be the one testifying before the committee on the bill).

Thank you so much for reading and I look forward to hearing from you in the future!

[**Signature Block Goes Here**]