

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Kelli Ludlum, Assistant Secretary

Date: March 18, 2016

Subject: SB 445, Client assessment, referral and evaluation program amendments

Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 445, legislation which will amend the Client Assessment Referral and Evaluation (CARE) statute to reflect the appropriate agency name and operations of the CARE program and maintain compliance with new Federal guidelines.

The CARE program is operated within KDADS under the Commission on Aging. The CARE program is responsible for diverting seniors from the nursing home and into the community where desired and possible. CARE has the responsibility for managing the statewide screening of applicants for nursing home services and providing information and referral for other optional community based services. The CARE program meets the federal requirements for the Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR).

The intent of KDADS is that the CARE program will serve as an assessment to provide customers individualized information on long-term care options, determine appropriate placements in long-term care communities and collect data regarding individuals being assessed for possible nursing home placement. This amendment to statute by SB 445 cleans up language in the statute to fix the names of state agencies responsible for the CARE program. It strikes language in the current statute requiring the Health Care Data Governing Board to adopt the CARE entry form. In addition, SB 445 clarifies that CARE/PASRR is a part of the area agencies on aging for purposes of the new Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument (MFEI) coming online in January 2017. The CARE/PASRR assessment is built into the new MFEI.

Thank you for the Committee's time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about this bill.