

**To:** House Children and Seniors Committee

**From:** Joe Ewert  
Commissioner of Survey, Certification, and Credentialing Commission

**Date:** February 25, 2014

**Subject:** HB 2717, Registration of Operators of assisted living, residential health care, home plus, or adult day care facilities.

Chairman O'Brien and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2717.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is responsible for the licensure and regulatory oversight of approximately 700 adult care homes through the Survey, Certification, and Credentialing Commission (SCC). The SCC also conducts professional credentialing for several health occupations working in the fields of long term care such as certified nurse and medication aides, home health aides, licensed adult care home administrators, dietitians, speech language pathologists and audiologists.

About 350 of the adult care homes in Kansas are licensed as an assisted living, residential health care facility, home plus, or adult day care facility. Each of these licensure categories requires the appointment of an "operator," which is responsible for seeing that the facility is operated in a manner that ensures each resident's needs are met. Nursing facilities and larger assisted living and residential health care facilities with more than 60 residents must be operated under the supervision of a licensed adult care home administrator. Licensed administrators must have a bachelor's degree, complete a 480-hour practicum, pass federal and state exams and perform ongoing professional education to maintain their license.

While operators must currently take a course and pass an exam approved by KDADS, they are not a credentialed health profession and as such there is minimal ability for the state to assure that operator skill and expertise keeps pace with the growing and changing needs of adult care home residents. HB 2717 will bring about positive advances in the level of expertise and accountability of adult care home operators by credentialing them at the registration level. By registering operators, the state may set reasonable requirements to assure operators remain current with the knowledge and standards of practice necessary to effectively operate one of these adult care homes. Registration also provides for disciplinary actions to protect adult care home residents from operators who have been found to have abused, neglected or exploited a resident in an adult care home, or have committed crimes which render them unfit to fill this role in an adult care home.

KDADS supports the passage of HB 2717.