

**Testimony on  
SB 656/Long-Term Care Services**

**House Appropriations**

**Submitted by  
Secretary Kathy Greenlee  
April 3, 2008**

Chairman Schwartz and members of the committee:

The Kansas Department on Aging supports SB 656. At the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA), we believe seniors should have the option of choosing the type of long term care services they receive. Our role is to provide the best support and services we can, regardless of setting.

Our goal at KDOA is to help ensure quality nursing home care. We encourage and focus on new models of care that are more resident centered; that support a better quality of life. For seniors who choose to live in a nursing home, we must provide quality care, nothing less. Nursing homes are and will continue to be an option for receiving long term care.

Seniors' first choice, however, is to stay home. They want community services to help them remain in their own home. We can provide those services and we can provide them at less cost than nursing home care.

SB 656 requires collaboration between three critical Medicaid agencies: Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA). I assure you this legislation would codify relationships that already exist. In fact, a few months ago, SRS Secretary Jordan and I made a presentation on long-term care reform to the KHPA Board.

Secretary Jordan and I are committed to supporting and expanding the choices we offer Kansas consumers. Our agencies work closely with the Centers for Independent Living and the Area Agencies on Aging.

Thank you for considering ways in which we can improve services to Kansas seniors and other individuals. I urge you to support SB 656.