

House Aging and Long Term Care Committee
March 12, 2009

HB 2366/PACE

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Chairman Bethell and members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2366, amending home health care licensure requirements for PACE providers.

There are currently two PACE providers in the state of Kansas. Via Christi HOPE is located in Wichita and serves Sedgwick County. Midland Care Connections is located in Topeka, and serves Shawnee and the surrounding counties. During the month of February, 2009 these two PACE sites provided care for 226 Medicaid eligible participants.

A third program is being developed in Kansas City and, when funded, will serve parts of Wyandotte and Johnson counties.

Both of state's current PACE programs provide home health services themselves as well as contracting for home health services with other providers. HB 2366 contains an amendment to K.S.A. 65-5112 that would exempt PACE providers from maintaining separate home health licensure.

This requirement is duplicative because it requires the PACE provider to participate in two redundant provider review processes. PACE providers must pass an initial certification and then be recertified for Medicare and Medicaid at least every two years, by a joint federal and state review team. To maintain a home health license, PACE providers must also acquire an initial license and then be re-licensed every three years by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The additional requirement for a home health license is unnecessary since the PACE provider must already meet the Medicaid and Medicare certification requirements, which includes a review of their home health care provision.

An example of the duplication this requirement creates involves documentation of care. PACE providers are required to maintain comprehensive care records for each enrollee. As home health providers, PACE organizations are also required to maintain a separate home health care specific record. This amendment would eliminate redundant requirements that are only necessary for a PACE provider to maintain a separate home health license.

The KDOA encourages your support of HB 2366. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you.