

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Janet Schalansky, Secretary

House Health and Human Services
February 11, 2003

House Bill 2116

Division of Health Care Policy
Janet Schalansky, Secretary
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Chairman Morrison and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the provisions of House Bill 2116. HB 2116 proposes to create a commission on health to oversee and make recommendations on all aspects of health in Kansas. The commission will focus primarily on prevention, health promotion and the reduction of health disparities throughout Kansas.

HB 2116 provides Kansas the opportunity to develop health policy in a comprehensive way by requiring participation on the commission of a broad array of professionals including policy makers, health care providers, insurers, educators, consumers and state agency representatives, among others. The commission will be charged with determining appropriate levels and delivery of health care services in Kansas, focusing in particular, on mental and physical health and under-served areas throughout the State. These are areas of concern to SRS and the consumers it serves.

SRS supports a comprehensive approach to creating health care policy in Kansas. We do, however, question whether the bill clearly articulates a comprehensive scope and vision for the commission. Additionally, in light of the reduced staff resources available at SRS, we would like to have further conversations about the extent to which SRS staff would be involved in seeking funding for the commission on health. I would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have.