

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Daniels, Secretary

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House Health and Human Services Committee

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HB 2825 – Interpreter Data Bank and Qualifications

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide information about the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) and its existing registry of sign language interpreters.

In accordance with KSA 75-5393, KCDHH maintains a registry of qualified sign language interpreters.

- * The registry identifies whether interpreters are qualified in American Sign Language, transliteration, or Signed Exact English. The registry also identifies their certification level through the Kansas Quality Assurance Screening (KQAS) program or other national recognized certifications.
- * Participation in the registry on the part of interpreters is currently voluntary. There is no fee to be listed, and KCDHH periodically undertakes activities to encourage participation and to keep the listing current.
- * A total of 522 sign language interpreters are currently listed on the registry, with 280 of them having KQAS Certification Level 3 or higher. This certification level means they are qualified to work in any setting, including the health care arena.
- * Individuals, organizations or agencies seeking an interpreter may contact KCDHH at 785-267-6100 or 800-432-0698 for statewide referral. Individuals may also contact one of six other private regional interpreter referral/coordinating agencies operating in Kansas. These agencies are listed on the KCDHH web site at: http://www.srskansas.org/kcdhh/text/coord_agencies.htm

SRS and KCDHH stand ready and willing to collaborate with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to assure that customers, programs and facilities have access to this resource and to avoid duplication of this data bank function.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony.