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Written Testimony: SB 311

Senate Judiciary Committee

February 4, 2014

Carolyn Gaughan, CAE, Executive Director

Chairman King and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our perspective on SB 311. I am providing this testimony on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). Our organization represents over 1,630 practicing, resident and medical student members from across this great state of Kansas. KAFP's mission is to promote access to and excellence in health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. Family physicians see people of all ages, both men and women, and work with almost every type of illness and disease.

I am writing to support SB 311, regarding changes to the non-economic damages cap. We believe the incremental increases proposed are reasonable and necessary. Keeping a reasonable limit on non-economic damage awards has been a key part of a stable liability environment in which to practice. We support the bill as introduced. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.