Primary Health Center Legislation Heard
Earlier this morning, the House Rural Revitalization Committee, chaired by Rep. Adam Smith (R-Weskan), heard House Bill 2677. The KHA-supported legislation would enact the Primary Health Center Pilot Program Act, which is based upon KHA's efforts to develop an alternative rural health care delivery model for Kansas communities. The goal, as outlined in House Bill 2677, suggests that the Kansas Legislature is seeking to improve the health of Kansas' rural population, preserve access to health care, encourage collaboration among rural health care providers, promote delivery of quality rural health care, promote efficiency and efficacy of rural health care, and promote fair reimbursement for rural health care services. KHA requested the introduction of House Bill 2677 as the state prepares to respond to the Rural Healthcare Delivery Demonstration Project, which is expected to be released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation later this year. KHA provided testimony in support of House Bill 2677 during today's hearing. Several questions were asked by committee members during the hearing, including whether it is anticipated that CMMI would release the demonstration project before the legislature adjourns. KHA will continue to meet with committee members in anticipation that action is taken on the bill.

Occupational and Professional Licensing Standards Legislation Heard
The Senate Committee on Commerce heard Senate Bill 366 earlier today. The proposed legislation amends the occupational and professional licensing standards for regulatory agencies to receive and review applications from military spouses, military service members (on active duty or honorably discharged), or any individual who has established or plans to establish residency in Kansas. Effectively, the bill would apply to any individual applicant for licensure, reciprocity or reinstatement. The bill would allow agencies to maintain their current processes if reciprocity standards contained within existing law are more favorable. However, if current processes are less favorable to an applicant or there are no current processes, the agency would be required to issue a license if the applicant has a valid license in another state with substantially similar licensing requirements or if the applicant has met work or experience requirements if no similar license is issued by the other state. The bill would amend the authority of the agency to consider a disqualifying criminal record, solvency, or an applicant who has not been in active practice within the previous two-year period. The bill would require the agency to issue a temporary registration while an applicant completes additional licensure requirements if doing so would not jeopardize the safety of the public. The bill also would require the regulatory agency to provide a determination and response to any applicant within
ten calendar days. Determinations must be specific and not general. The bill would include a provision stating nothing in the bill is designed to interfere with federal requirements or a multistate compact, and the determination regarding favorability rests with the licensing body. The bill would require each regulatory agency to adopt rules and regulations consistent with these requirements. Testifying in favor of Senate Bill 366 included the Kansas Chamber, Americans for Prosperity, and the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. Opponents of the legislation included the Kansas Medical Society, Kansas Optometric Association, and the Kansas Sheriffs Association. Several state agencies provided comments as neutral conferees. The committee is expected to consider further action on Senate Bill 366 later this week.

**Legislation Caps Monthly Cost of Insulin**

*Senate Bill 376* was introduced by the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation earlier this month. The proposed legislation would require health insurance carriers to cap the monthly amount an individual would pay for a 30-day supply of insulin to no more than $100. A similar bill was introduced in the Kansas House, *House Bill 2557*. Neither chamber has scheduled a hearing on the proposed bills.

**Introduction of Bills**

*House Bill 2706* – Concerning labor; relating to the Kansas Department of Labor Industrial Safety and Health Program; public employee safety and health; establishing the Public Safety and Health Program; investigation of public employee deaths or serious injury; discrimination against employees who report dangerous conditions. By the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development.

*House Bill 2709* – Concerning controlled substances; relating to cannabis; removing certain products that contain a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of up to 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis from the list of controlled substances listed in schedule I of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. By the Committee on Agriculture.

*House Bill 2711* – Concerning health and health care; relating to health insurance coverage; expanding medical assistance eligibility; implementing a health insurance plan reinsurance program; directing the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to study certain Medicaid expansion topics; adding meeting days to the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight Committee to monitor implementation; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022. By the Committee on Health and Human Services.

*House Bill 2712* – Concerning the Kansas Board of Pharmacy; relating to powers, duties and functions thereof; investigations; inspections and audits; telepharmacy. By the Committee on Health and Human Services.

*Senate Bill 443* – Concerning health professions and practices; relating to audiologists and speech-language pathologists; licensure; enacting the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. By the Committee on Public Health and Welfare.
Senate Bill 452 – Enacting the Massage Therapist Licensure Act; relating to regulation and licensing of massage therapists; duties and functions of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. By the Committee on Federal and State Affairs.