KHA
Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Higher Education Budget
FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations
                   Jaron Caffrey, Director of Workforce and Healthcare Policy
DATE: February 12, 2025
RE: House Bill 2248

The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 2248. On behalf of our 121 community hospitals across the state, we see first-hand the need to recruit and maintain a skilled nursing workforce.

Over the last three years, our hospitals have seen expenses increase by more than 35 percent. We know that nursing programs across our state have similar supply and equipment cost increases for some of the very same products.

That is why we believe that House Bill 2248 will allow schools of nursing to invest in strategic needs to keep these vital nursing programs attracting and retaining students and educators at colleges throughout our state.

The total vacancy rate of hospital employees is nearly double what it was before 2020. Kansas hospitals need our partner schools of nursing to be strong and well equipped to enroll more students, successfully educate and train more students, and graduate as many nurses as possible. Making updates proposed in HB 2248 will enable more modern and usable simulation equipment to be obtained by nursing programs to train students with. Concerns with lack of faculty in many programs across the state can be addressed by providing pathways for hospitals and colleges to share faculty through updates in the Initiative Grant as well.

As the Kansas population ages, and nurses look to retire, we are at a critical point in ensuring that Kansas is well prepared to deal with the needs of our fellow citizens, and we feel that House Bill 2248 is a step in the right direction.

Highest Projected Job Openings in 2030 Outlook show that Registered Nurses will have a significant number of openings by 2030.

Occupational Title	Base Year Employment (2020)	Projected Year Employment (2030)	Employment Change Numerical	Percent Change	Openings Due to Exits (2030)	Total Openings (2030)
Registered Nurses	30,921	34,113	3,192	10.3%	8,676	20,049
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	25,705	28,703	2,998	11.7%	17,416	35,817
Nursing Assistants	22,156	23,564	1,408	6.4%	14,635	28,986
Medical Assistants	5,650	6,439	789	14.0%	2,480	7,786
Nurse Practitioners	2,727	3,325	598	21.9%	632	2,179
Pharmacy Technicians	4,433	4,918	485	10.9%	1,276	3,771
Physicians	4,888	5,222	334	6.8%	811	1,715
Physical Therapists	2,401	2,708	307	12.8%	505	1,342
Speech-Language Pathologists	1,579	1,886	307	19.4%	403	1,331
Respiratory Therapists	1,328	1,632	304	22.9%	317	994
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	3,673	3,949	276	7.5%	983	2,672
Physician Assistants	1,076	1,321	245	22.8%	187	905
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	6,942	7,168	226	3.3%	2,379	5,550
Phlebotomists	1,252	1,461	209	16.7%	583	1,779
Occupational Therapists	1,557	1,731	174	11.2%	354	1,065
Physical Therapy Assistants	1,203	1,375	172	14.3%	551	1,697
Health Information Technologists, Medical Registrars, Surgical Assistants, Health Care Practitioners, and All Other	1,349	1,501	152	11.3%	389	1,153
Occupational Therapy Assistants	658	801	143	21.7%	363	1,040
Radiologic Technologists	2,115	2,227	112	5.3%	592	1,637
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	710	815	105	14.8%	208	641
Surgical Technologists	1,037	1,099	62	6.0%	291	812
Surgeons, Except Ophthalmologists	168	182	14	8.3%	28	62

* https://www.kha-net.org/DataProductsandServices/STAT/Workforce/

We hope that the committee recognizes the need for our state to prepare for upcoming significant workforce needs in the areas of nursing. We thank the committee for their time and hope you will support House Bill 2248.