



**To: Representative Steven Howe, Chair and Members, House Higher Education Budget Committee**  
**From: Kylee Childs, Director of Government Affairs, LeadingAge Kansas**  
**Date: 2/12/2025**

LeadingAge Kansas is the state association for not-for-profit and mission-focused aging services. We have 150 member organizations across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living, home plus, senior housing, low-income housing, home health agencies, home and community-based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 older Kansans each day and employ more than 20,000 people across the state.

#### **Proponent Testimony for HB2248**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2248. House Bill 2248 establishes the Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Program, which will provide critical support to accredited nursing programs at postsecondary institutions. This legislation directly benefits adult care home providers and their staff in the following ways:

1. **Addressing the Nursing Workforce Shortage:** Adult care homes face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified nursing staff. By expanding faculty and increasing student capacity, HB 2248 will help grow the pipeline of licensed nurses in Kansas, easing workforce shortages in long-term care settings.
2. **Enhancing Staff Training and Competency:** The bill's focus on student success, including tutoring, clinical education resources, and licensing exam preparation, will ensure that new graduates are well-equipped to provide high-quality care. This investment in nursing education will benefit adult care homes by producing a workforce with stronger clinical skills and better preparedness for the demands of long-term care.
3. **Improving Quality of Care for Residents:** A well-trained and adequately staffed nursing workforce is essential to maintaining high standards of care in adult care homes. By strengthening nursing programs, HB 2248 ultimately contributes to better health outcomes for residents who rely on skilled nursing services every day.

The need for skilled nursing professionals in long-term care settings has never been greater. HB 2248 represents a proactive and necessary step toward ensuring that Kansas has the workforce needed to care for its aging population.

For these reasons, we support HB 2248 and urge the committee to support its passage. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.