

**Testimony on HCR 5008**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Presented by Amy Siple**  
**March 6, 2025**

Madam Chair and committee members,

I testify today in support of HCR 5008. I have experienced firsthand the draconian rules of the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) that threaten my professional future. As a nurse and nurse practitioner, I have cared for clients across our great state for more than three decades. It has been a joy and honor to help save lives, equip young nurses for practice as a nursing professor, manage care of older adults and the underserved, and accompany people on the last leg of their journey in life. Through thousands of patient encounters, I have served people during some of the most desperate and vulnerable states of their existence and have never been sued nor had any complaints filed against me.

Last spring, my husband was diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer, and I was terrified. The practice where I was employed sold out, and I decided not to join the new practice and instead focused my efforts on caring for my husband. Thus, this was the only time in my nursing career when I was not employed in patient care. Following his surgery and stabilization, I began thinking about working again. I checked the board of nursing's website on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and was shocked to see my license renewal was on May 31, 2024. This was the first time in 32 years I was late to renew my license. However, my continuing education hours and malpractice insurance were current by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. I submitted evidence of this and paid the fees. While I expected to incur a late fee, I did not anticipate the disciplinary action that would follow.

I have been asked to sign a consent agreement for "unprofessional conduct" for practicing without a license. This is in spite of the fact that no billing will be found under my NPI number during this period. I did speak at conferences and senior centers to educate and equip caregivers of older adults during those four and a half months, and this is what they take issue with(65-1113(d)). KSBN intends to put my name with the label of guilt for unprofessional conduct on three separate databases as well as their newsletter in perpetuity. I would prefer to be punched in the gut than to be labeled as an unprofessional nurse. I was told if I request a hearing, they can take further action against me. Furthermore, the hearing does not take place in front of their board but instead in front of a single hearing officer who is an attorney that works with KSBN.

Prior to this experience, I have never been denied a job as a nurse or nurse practitioner. Since this experience, I have found myself unemployable by organizations who either

will not employ someone in the midst of a disciplinary hearing or, by policy, avoid hiring nurses labeled as unprofessional. I have aspirations of running for public office. Being labeled in perpetuity with unprofessional conduct eliminates this option for me as well.

I am confident that elected representatives and senators would not impose such harsh draconian rules and regulations on licensed professionals. Please pass HCR 5008 and give the public a chance to vote on allowing our legislature oversight over executive branch agencies and officials.

Respectfully,

Amy Siple, APRN, FNP, GS-C