



**Senate Education Committee**

**SB 22 - Extension of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority**

**Kathy Howell, Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive**

**Saint Luke's Health System**

**February 6, 2013**

Chairman Abrams and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Kathy Howell, and I am the Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive for Saint Luke's Health System. I also serve as Chair of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) and I want to express my support of Senate Bill 22 which would extend the TEA for three more years.

The work of the TEA continues to benefit healthcare employers like Saint Luke's through providing skilled, credentialed employees in many facets of the industry. There are very few jobs in healthcare that can be acquired without postsecondary training and certification or licensure. We depend on a robust technical education system to provide skilled, qualified staff to fill our needs in such areas as nursing, informatics, medical coding and industrial maintenance. The continued development of collaborative programs in technical education between secondary and postsecondary educational institutions provides Kansas students an early start with the ability to earn credentials which are stackable and lead to promising careers in healthcare.

The TEA has served as the "voice of business" and has carried out the request of the Kansas legislature since its inception in 2007. We have aligned postsecondary career technical education programs with the needs of business and required industry-recognized credentials. The TEA developed a funding formula for technical education that encourages the delivery of high wage programs and this approach was supported by legislation in 2011. A comprehensive, state-wide marketing campaign for career technical education has been launched. Last year, leadership was provided to community and technical colleges to ensure a quick implementation of Governor Brownback's career technical education initiative and the early results that have been remarkable. These noteworthy accomplishments have been completed in a short time, but we need to continue our work.

With input from business, industry and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, we have approved three metrics to measure career technical education programs for state funding purposes. These metrics include job placement, wages, and number of graduates receiving industry-recognized credentials. Our current work in this area includes bench-marking existing programs and resolving issues related to the collection of these data. We also want to continue to align our existing programs with industry requirements and address how career technical education might assist the transition of returning veterans and their families.

Thank you for your time. I respectfully request that you pass SB 22. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.