



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

House Committee on Education March 14, 2017

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Good afternoon Chairman Aurand, and Members of the Committee. This testimony is submitted in support of Senate Bill 100.

Background: The Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship is administered by the Kansas Board of Regents and is intended to reduce the impact of recurrent nursing shortages, especially in rural areas of Kansas.

Students seeking this nursing scholarship must locate a sponsor who will pay up to one-half of the scholarship stipend and agree to employ the scholarship recipient within six months of licensure. Since FY 2003 this scholarship has provided an award amount of \$2,500 for an LPN and \$3,500 for an RPN for each year of study. Facilities which have been identified as rural/small pay \$1,000 of the \$2,500 (LPN) or \$3,500 (RPN) annual scholarship, while urban facilities pay one-half of the annual amount provided. Eligible students must be enrolled full-time in a Kansas nursing program and agree to provide one year of nursing service to the sponsor for each year of scholarship support. The scholarship is awarded based on need only if there are more eligible applicants than available funding, otherwise all eligible students are considered regardless of need.

The Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship is financed from the State General Fund and sponsors' funds. The amount currently included the annual Kansas Board of Regents budget would fund 105 students at an average award amount of \$3,000.

Actual FY 2016: \$156,250 SGF; \$70,750 sponsor funds (80 students)
Budget FY 2017: \$245,260 SGF; \$71,000 sponsor funds
Budget FY 2018: \$217,255 SGF; \$71,000 sponsor funds
Budget FY 2019: \$217,255 SGF; \$71,000 sponsor funds

The proposed legislation would expand the types of medical facilities that could sponsor scholarship recipients to include employees of:

- Private treatment facilities,
- Community mental health centers,

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- Mental health clinics,
- Any psychiatric hospitals,
- Residential treatment facilities,
- Residential care facilities, and
- State mental health and developmental disability hospitals.

The Kansas Board of Regents supports the changes in this legislation in order to increase the types of facilities which can take advantage of this scholarship opportunity.

The Board appreciates the efforts of Senator Baumgardner who developed this legislation to expand the use of the state's financial aid program in service of mental health and addiction facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.