

Before the House Health and Human Services Committee
January 31, 2018

HB 2496

WRITTEN ONLY

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

ARJ Infusion Services supports passage of HB 2496 the “Nurse Licensure Compact”.

ARJ Infusion Services is a Lenexa based business providing highly skilled clinical services to people living with rare, chronic conditions. Our business utilizes combination of highly skilled nurses and pharmacists that work in tandem with prescribing physicians to care for patients in the comfort and convenience of their homes. Demographic trends over the coming decades demand that a comprehensive home-based model of health care be maintained and adapt to the needs of an aging population. To accomplish this healthcare companies must innovate, realign and expand their resources to fill the needs for high quality patient care while keeping the cost of services in check.

Enacting the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) will assist Kansas-based providers in meeting the demands of the rapidly changing healthcare environment. The eNLC provides a multistate license that allows nurses to provide services (both in-person and telephonically) to patients across state lines. The goal of the eNLC is to improve patient care by allowing nurses to practice freely across state lines with one license and has many benefits for Kansans and the state’s health care related employers.

Dramatic changes are occurring in health care delivery. It is common for patients to travel across state lines for health care, and nurses are often the individuals providing hands-on care and clinical support. The need for Kansas based nurses to obtain licenses in each individual state in which they provide these services is not economical for either the nurse or employers. The current licensure model limits mobility of nurses, and access to care for patients. In addition, those nurses in non-compact states are at a significant disadvantage when seeking employment compared to nurses who can practice in any of the 30 eNLC states. The current licensing model needs to be updated and the eNLC offers a time tested and innovative approach that is safe and consistent with 21st century health care. Additionally, during periods of national or regional disasters the eNLC can be a crucial, by allowing compact licensed nurses to easily cross state lines to help those in need.

Kansas based healthcare employers looking to fill key clinical nursing positions in the growing areas of home infusion, telemedicine, specialty pharmacy, integrated health delivery systems and medical care management are challenged to hire skilled nurses who can grow with their business. In a highly competitive healthcare environment it is imperative to optimize the return on your investment in human capital and a broader professional licensure simply makes practical sense.

Thank you for considering this very important issue to nurses and patients. We ask that the committee move forward with adopting HB 2496 The “Nurse Licensure Compact” in the current legislative session.