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**Senate Committee on Education
February 2, 2017
Pat George, President / CEO, Valley Hope Association**

Good afternoon Chairman Baumgardner and members of the Committee. This testimony is submitted in support of Senate Bill 100.

As a non-profit organization with five facilities located in Kansas, Valley Hope supports this bill. Our residential facilities require around the clock nursing staff to provide individuals suffering from Substance Use Disorder the medical care required to stabilize and begin their recovery.

In more than 50 years in business, we have found it difficult to secure nurses for these positions especially in rural areas of Kansas. This program will allow us to work with educational institutions to not only hire nurses for these positions, but will also help us to keep nurses trained at Kansas schools within the state. This nursing scholarship will give us another arrow in our quiver to help solve this problem.

Valley Hope is a nonprofit organization, and we must always be careful with funding. Money that is not invested into recruiting for nurses on an ongoing basis can, instead, be used to treat more individuals that suffer from Substance Use Disorder.

Valley Hope applauds the proactive way in which the Board of Regents and the Kansas Legislature are supporting the industry and encouraging nursing students to obtain employment in Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony today.