

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chairwoman Carolyn McGinn
February 24, 2020

SB 409- Proponent

Madam Chairwoman and Committee Members-

I am Linda MowBray, Vice President Kansas Health Care Association and the Kansas Center for Assisted Living. KHCA and KCAL represent the interests of Kansas long term care (LTC) providers- nonprofit and proprietary. Skilled Nursing (SNF), Assisted Living (AL), Home Plus (HP) Residential Care (RCF), Nursing Facilities for Mental Health (NFMH) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) make up our membership. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day and employ almost 30,000 Kansans.

Thank you for the opportunity to address SB 409 concerning the Quality Care Assessment program for Kansas nursing homes.

The Quality Care Assessment was first enacted in 2010. The funds garnered by the assessment were used to leverage federal dollars to provide necessary funding for nursing home reimbursement through the Kansas Medicaid program. The funds help nursing homes provide quality care and train quality staff.

The Quality Care Assessment or Provider Assessment will sunset on July 1, 2020 unless SB 409 is passed.

This would have a devastating effect on nursing home providers resulting in a loss of 66 million dollars in all funds to the Nursing Home Budget. We understand that the state is in no position to make up this loss. According to the 2017 Eljay shortfall report,⁴ the difference between actual cost of care and what a home is reimbursed is already short by over \$18.00 per Medicaid resident per day. Losing an additional 66 million would be devastating to our Kansas Nursing Homes. Homes would close and elders would be denied access to care. We can't let this happen.

SB 409 does not contain language calling for a sunset as past Quality Care Assessment bills have. The reason is simply this, the state has no means to replace the monies generated by the Provider Assessment. To use your time and resources every four years to renew a program that Kansas nursing home providers can't live without seems futile.

Please support SB 409 the solution for funding quality care in Kansas nursing homes.

⁴ The President of Eljay, LLC is a retired partner of BDO, LLP (BDO) and formerly their National Director of Long Term Care Services. Both this year's study and the fourteen conducted in prior years were compiled under his management and review.