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House Health & Human Services
Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members
March 8, 2022

Senate Bill 453 - allowing unlicensed employee training courses to be taught and evaluated by professional licensed nurses

Proponent as amended

Good Afternoon Madam Chair and Committee Members. I am Linda MowBray, President/CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade Association representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing home, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health communities across the state. We are the oldest nursing home trade association in Kansas and have over 265 member communities. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day and employ over 20,000 workers.

We appreciate the opportunity to support SB 453 as amended which expands and modernizes health care workforce training in Kansas. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, we must relook and redesign how we recruit, train, retain and sustain our healthcare workforce. This must be done to ensure quality healthcare for all Kansas.

Adult care homes' workforce across the state and the country for that matter have been devastated by the virus. The loss of life of both residents and workers has been crushing, heartbreaking and demoralizing. Homes may close limiting option for care across the state. Good people, our human resources, are leaving the profession. There is no one in line to take their place. Residents as well as family members have been separated and only able to connect via technology. We are a profession that is beat down.

We need your help. SB 453 as amended accomplishes the following:

1. Allows Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach CNA courses under the general supervision of a registered nurse to alleviate RN shortages and expand the number of CNA courses in Kansas.
2. Allows RN's with experience in caring for the elderly or chronically ill of any age to administer the skills demonstration portion of CNA competency evaluations regardless of the clinical setting of their experience.
3. It does not change the curriculum or dilute the content, hours, skills or exam administered to the student.

According to the 2020 cost report data, LPNs provide nearly the same number of hours in our nursing homes as RNs. They are often in the position of charge nurse, supervising nurse and are the direct report for CNAs and CMAs. They have the knowledge, experience and credentials to supervise. Those same skills should allow them to instruct CNAs in their basic education. This will not dilute the quality of the training, only serve to open the pipeline for more individuals wishing to become CNAs to achieve their goals.

2020 Cost Report Data				
		Hours	Dollars	AHR
REGISTERED NURSE (RN) SALARIES	RN	4,323,344	\$ 147,581,945	\$ 34.14
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE SALARIES	LPN	4,268,417	\$ 106,696,361	\$ 25.00
NURSE AIDE SALARIES	CNA	13,210,475	\$ 199,468,811	\$ 15.10
MEDICATION AIDE SALARIES	CMA	2,683,320	\$ 42,615,653	\$ 15.88
RESTORATIVE/REHAB AIDE SALARIES	RA	343,834	\$ 6,298,183	\$ 18.32

Thank you and I'll stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Linda MowBray, President/CEO
KHCA/KCAL