



March 8, 2022

Madame Chair and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 453, AN ACT concerning adult care homes; relating to certified aides working in adult care homes; requiring certified aide training courses to be taught and evaluated by professional licensed nurses; requiring a demonstration of skills to successfully complete training courses; amending K.S.A. 39- 936 and 65-5115 and repealing the existing sections.

The Wichita Chamber has been involved in seeking solutions to CNA shortages in our region since a couple of our members came to us with a conundrum in the summer of 2021. A long-term care facility was forced to close a facility due to not being able to hire enough CNAs to provide basic assistance needs of residents. At the same time, one of the educational institutions in our region has had to turn away more than 200 potentially interested students from the greater Wichita area in the last year, because they could not find qualified instructors that meet current requirements to teach CNA courses.

SB 453 accomplishes the following:

- SB 453 allows Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach Certified Nursing Aides (CNAs) courses under the general supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN).
- SB 453 allows RNs with experience in caring for the elderly or chronically ill of any age, regardless of the clinical setting of their experience (nursing home, home plus, hospital, etc.), to administer the skills demonstration portion of the CNA competency evaluations.

What SB 453 does NOT do:

- SB 453 does not require the hiring of LPNs to instruct CNAs. It allows it. Educational institutions that still want to hire RNs as CNA instructors can still do so.
- SB 453 does not change current CNA training hours or curriculum. All CNAs, no matter their instructor, will be required to receive the same training, pass the same examinations, and demonstrate the same competencies to a Registered Nurse with the same required professional experience.
- SB 453 does not extend or make permanent “temporary aides” as defined in the recently-passed HB 2477.

LPNs work as charge nurses in many adult care homes and directly supervise CNAs without the presence of an RN. CNAs provide basic assistance with daily living for residents and LPNs are more than qualified to act as CNA instructors. LPNs can perform such instruction under the general supervision of an RN just as they do in other aspects of their jobs. LPNs



are allowed to act as instructors in several other states, including the nearby states of Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The Chamber supports SB 453 because it would act, in part, to help alleviate the current lack of available CNAs in long-term care facilities. Every state in the nation is experiencing a shortage of healthcare workers. This puts increasing strains on an already overly stressed system, including those that provide care and those that rely on care for their wellbeing and survival. The allowances in SB 453 are common sense and, while not a complete solution, are a tool that could and should be made available.

SB 453 will not only preserve the availability of CNA training across the state, but it can also expand it going forward. When it comes to the quality and availability of healthcare in Kansas, we must do what we can to keep the pipeline open for healthcare worker training. SB 453 reduces unnecessary regulatory burdens on healthcare providers and educational institutions and provides more tools to these entities to train CNAs.

With this in mind, we urge the Committee to report SB 453 favorably for passage. Thank you for your consideration.

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