

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Heather Porter, MSN, ACM-RN, NE-BC

Date: March 7, 2022

RE: Proponent SB 453

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

On behalf of NMC Health, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 453. My name is Heather Porter. I am a Registered Nurse, and the Chief Clinical and Chief Nursing Officer at NMC Health. I thank you for your leadership and consideration of our comments today.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 500,000 registered nurses are expected to retire by 2022 and the Bureau projects 1.1 million new registered nurses would be needed to replace retirees.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics also reports that Kansas is one of five states with the highest concentration of nursing assistant jobs available.<sup>1</sup> By supporting SB 453 additional instructors and courses will be available to expand upon number of certified aide courses in Kansas.

Page 2, Line 7 of SB 453 proposes that a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical nurse can serve as an instructor of the certified aide course. The proposed bill also includes language that requires the Registered Nurse to complete the skills check off for the certified aide. This proposed change aligns with how care is delegated in hospital, nursing homes and care facilities. The RN and LPN often work together to meet the care needs of the patient population assigned. A position statement on delegation of specific nursing tasks in the school setting for Kansas is supported by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) and the Kansas School Nurse Organization (KSNO).<sup>2</sup> This document demonstrates the relationship between the LPN and RN. The RN Scope of Practice aligns with the delivery of healthcare services, which require assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, intervention & evaluation. The LPN Scope of Practice allows an LPN to be assigned work by an RN in the areas of observation, intervention, evaluation and basic cares. The Kansas Department on Aging certified aide curriculum includes handwashing, use of disposable gloves, feeding techniques, bathing assistance, oral care, toileting assistance, repositioning and dressing assistance.<sup>3</sup> These activities of daily living are certainly within the experience of an LPN. The Kansas State Nurse Practice Act at K.A.R. 60-15-101-104 clearly defines the practice of delegation and states that the services of a registered professional nurse may be supplemented by the assignment of tasks to a licensed practical nurse.<sup>2</sup> SB 453 aligns with the application and definition of delegation in the Kansas State Nurse Practice Act.

This bill comes at a time when the healthcare industry is in need of a stable and well-trained workforce. Certified Aides are critical part in the overall delivery of health care in communities across Kansas. Finding ways to expand opportunities for those interested in joining programs to be trained and ensuring that students have access to getting trained in the field is important in addressing current and future workforce needs.

The bill allows greater flexibilities and eliminates barriers to expanded certified aide training opportunities in Kansas. Allowing for flexibilities for instructors to this course means, more Kansans can take the courses necessary to enter the field. Expanding qualifying experience for those that are caring for the elderly no matter the clinical setting means more RN's can administer the skills portion of the certified aide competency and is

correct in the recognition that healthcare staff takes care of the elderly and chronically ill in settings across health care and not solely in long-term care.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We ask that the committee recommend favorably SB 453.

Sincerely,



Heather Porter

Chief Clinical Officer

NMC Health

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(1) *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*. N.D. 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/>. Accessed 03/03/2022

(2) "Kansas State Board of Nursing." January 2022. *Kansas State Nurse Practice Act*. <https://ksbn.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/NPA/npa.pdf>. Accessed 02/10/2022

(3) KDADS. *Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services*. N.D. <https://kdads.ks.gov/kdads-commissions/survey-certification-and-credentialing-commission/health-occupations-credentialing>. Accessed 03/03/2022