



We extend the healing ministry of Christ by caring for those who are ill and by nurturing the health of the people in our communities.

**House Judiciary Committee
Shawna Deal & Nicole Milo
Verbal Conferee: Extending Certain Provisions of 2020 HB2016
January 13, 2021**

Dear Representative Patton,

On behalf of the Centura Health System, a network of hospitals in Colorado and Western Kansas, and specifically for St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City, Kansas, we are respectfully asking for an extension of HB2016. HB 2016, which is set to expire on January 26, 2021, has been a lifeline in terms of our ability to provide skilled regional clinical coverage in Southwest Kansas. HB 2016 has temporarily waived state licensure and insurance requirements for health care workers coming from out of state to provide care in Kansas during the pandemic. This measure has allowed visiting Centura Health physicians, practitioners, nurses and therapists from Colorado to work at St. Catherine Hospital throughout this pandemic. Without this order in place, St. Catherine, as well as other hospitals, would be challenged in their ability to provide critical care and resources throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically, the surges that have occurred in Kansas over the last 11 months. While PPE was our limiting factor in the spring, as the pandemic has ensued, we are now challenged by staffing due to a myriad of issues from the infection from the virus itself to clinician fatigue to external factors such as childcare. Due to these unforeseen shortages in staffing, this bill has become a critical tool for our system to cover these shortages during this time of crisis. Under normal circumstances, this type of order is unnecessary, but has become an essential backstop to ensure access and care in these unforeseen times.

We would like to advocate for the retention and continuation of two sections that have been critical to our organization, our clinicians, and our patients. Section 23 has afforded us the ability to move our clinicians who are in good standing in other jurisdictions to provide the necessary clinical resources to the Southwest Kansas community. Additionally, Section 10 is valuable to providers who are concerned about the difficult decisions they are currently making when treating a very new illness.

We respectfully request the extension of HB2016, specifically Sections 10 & 23, as we are heavily dependent upon assistance from out of state (CO and MO) clinicians. We foresee the need to utilize this order well into at least the Fall of 2021 as we continue to battle through the pandemic while we simultaneously assist the State of Kansas as a critical partner in the roll out of the vaccine to the citizens of Kansas.

Please contact either one of us directly with any questions surrounding this request.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawna Deal".

Shawna Deal
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Milo".

Nicole Milo
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