



"TO KNOW, TO LOVE, TO SERVE"

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Richard Hilderbrand
Room: 445-S, State Capital
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Support of Senate Bill 453

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand,

My name is Cindy LaFleur and I am the Executive Director/CEO of the Catholic Care Center in Bel Aire, KS. Prior to my service at Catholic Care Center, I served in various leadership roles in the Ascension Via Christi hospital system for over 30 years. Throughout my expansive healthcare career, I have experienced firsthand the challenges of maintaining a highly skilled clinical staff; and those challenges have increased dramatically in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 453 to allow Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) courses under the direction of a Registered Nurse (RN.) To allow CNA students to obtain up to 50% of their clinical training hours in a simulated laboratory, and to allow RNs with experience in caring for the elderly or chronically ill of any age to administer the skills demonstration portion of the CAN competency evaluations regardless of the clinical setting of their experience.

These past two years have been some of the most difficult that the healthcare industry has ever faced, and often times the senior living segment of the industry is overlooked as focus tends to be on the acute care hospitals that are being pushed to their limits by the pandemic. We in senior living are also being pushed to our limits, despite this global crisis, our society continues to age, and many become in need of care due to dementia, isolation, lack of family support, and chronic health issues; we have also been tasked with caring for many others recovering from COVID in our short-stay rehab facilities. We are working creatively and tirelessly to care for those in need while facing the same staffing shortages and supply chain issues that are wreaking havoc on the entire world.

By your support of Senate Bill 453 you can effectively help ease this struggle by creating opportunities for those who are called to serve in healthcare to obtain the necessary skills and certifications. With so many healthcare professionals leaving the industry, why are we creating unnecessary roadblocks for those willing to rise to the occasion and take their place?

The residents of Catholic Care Center, and the thousands of other seniors in our state deserve your support. These valuable members of our society worked to create the communities that we are fortunate to enjoy today and we owe to them to provide adequate skilled caregivers when they need it most.

I implore you to please vote YES on Tuesday for Senate Bill 453 and help us continue our mission of knowing, loving and serving seniors!

Sincerely,

Cindy LaFleur
Executive Director/CEO