



**Testimony to Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Proponent Testimony on SB453
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) supports SB453 that helps health care facilities address the critical workforce shortage they are experiencing. The KC Chamber, representing nearly 2,000 businesses (40% of which are in Kansas), supports strategies that allow our healthcare providers train and employ qualified health care workers to provide critical care for our patients in the Kansas City area and across the state.

Just like other industries in the last couple of years, healthcare providers across the Kansas City Metro and the State of Kansas have experienced workforce shortages that have been well-documented in the media. These shortages have led to over-loaded healthcare systems, diminished morale among healthcare workers, and longer wait times for patients to be transferred out of emergency rooms. Although longer-term solutions are needed to grow the pipeline of workers into the healthcare space, there are some short-term options available including SB453. This bill will allow Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach Certified Nursing Aides (CNAs) courses under the general supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN). This will help alleviate the strain on RNs and increase the number of CAN courses in the state. This bill will also allow for greater use of simulated laboratories for CAN hours which expands the clinical training options. This training method is safe and effective according to the Kansas Board of Nursing. And, finally, SB453 allows 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.

The KC Chamber supports efforts by the Legislature to grow the pipeline of qualified, able and skilled health care workers in the State of Kansas. The strain on our healthcare workers, especially in the last couple of years, is well-known. As the pool of available workers continues to decline, innovative strategies to grow the labor force is time critical and SB453 is one tool in the toolbox to respond to this. The KC Chamber supports SB453 and urges the committee's support for the bill as well.

**John Jenks
Director, Public Policy
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
jjenks@kcchamber.com
913.515.1958**