



February 12, 2022

Re: SB 453

Dear, Honorable Richard Hilderbrand and Members,

Skilled nursing facilities are facing a crisis and need an abundant, quality trained workforce, specifically Certified Nurse Aides. These compassionate individuals provide the majority of the hands-on care to short term and long-term patients in our skilled nursing, assisted living, memory care, and home plus facilities in Kansas. Additionally, CNA certification is a prerequisite for Certified Medication Aides, Home Health Aides, Licensed Practical Nurse and some Registered Nursing programs in Kansas.

As a Human Resources professional, I see the devastating affects of the healthcare workers shortage across Kansas. The Axiom portfolio includes 14 healthcare facilities and about 1,000 employees. Like all healthcare facilities, we experience significant shortages every day, leaving our current employees stressed and overworked. Supporting ways to increase the CNA training pipeline is an essential part of solving workforce issues across the entire health care spectrum.

Licensed practical nurses provide a significant amount of hands-on care to our residents, more so than registered nurses and therefore are in the best position to train Certified Nurse Aides. Allowing them to provide this training in the state of Kansas is an excellent move to perpetuate stable staff in all Kansas health care facilities.

I fully support Senate Bill 453.

Gratefully,

Kathi Bragg, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, MBA
Chief Human Resources Officer
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