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Senate Public Health and Welfare
Chairman Hilderbrand and Committee Members
February 15, 2022

Senate Bill 453 - requiring unlicensed employee training courses to be taught and evaluated by professional licensed nurses

Proponent

Good Afternoon Mister Chairman and Committee Members. I am Linda MowBray, President/CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade Association representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing home, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health communities across the state. We are the oldest nursing home trade association in Kansas and have over 265 member communities. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day and employ over 20,000 workers.

We appreciate the opportunity to support SB 453 which expands and modernizes health care workforce training in Kansas. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, we must relook and redesign how we recruit, train, retain and sustain our healthcare workforce. This must be done to ensure quality healthcare for all Kansas.

Adult care homes' workforce across the state and the country for that matter have been devastated by the virus. The loss of life of both residents and workers has been crushing, heartbreaking and demoralizing. Homes may close limiting option for care across the state. Good people, our human resources, are leaving the profession. There is no one in line to take their place. Residents as well as family members have been separated and only able to connect via technology. We are a profession that is beat down.

We need your help. SB 453 accomplishes the following:

1. Allow Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach CNA courses under the general supervision of a registered nurse to alleviate RN shortages and expand the number of CNA courses in Kansas.
2. Allow use of simulated laboratories for up to 50% of nurse aide clinical hours in order to expand clinical training options deemed safe and effective by research.
3. Allow RN's with experience in caring for the elderly or chronically ill of any age to administer the skills demonstration portion of CNA competency evaluations regardless of the clinical setting of their experience.

Linda MowBray, President/CEO
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