

February 12, 2022

Dear Chairman Richard Hilderbrand and Members,

I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 453. I currently serve as the Director of Operations for ComfortCare Homes of Harvey County, a Homes Plus facility in Newton, Kansas and I know firsthand the struggles that are faced with staffing our homes.

We serve families and individuals living with dementia, which is a much needed service to our communities. While we do great work, we cannot do this work without our caregivers, and unfortunately it has become increasingly more difficult to find licensed caregivers in our community. This bill will help open this pipeline and allow those interested in obtaining their license to take classes that are currently full due to the shortage of educators that qualify under current standards. In addition to this, authorizing LPN's to begin serving in this educator role allows these individuals to share valuable experience that they bring to the table. We need help to continue to provide this much-needed service to our communities and the passing of this bill will provide us that opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sharon Erwin
Director of Operations
ComfortCare Homes of Harvey County