



February 15, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Tim Keck, Vice President, Mission Health

Re: SB 453

Chairman Hilderbrand, Vice Chair Gossage and other members of the Committee, we write to support Senate Bill 453 concerning the training of Certified Nurse Aids. As is well known, there is a severe crisis in the workforce shortage. But this especially true in long term care. By some estimates, the nursing home sector has lost more than 400,000 employees since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mission Health operates more than 30 skilled nursing facilities in Kansas. In early 2021 we began in-house training of CNAs and CMAs. Through the end of 2021 we have trained more that 125 people to be CNAs. We have a 100% pass rate on the licensing exam and an 88% retention rate among those staff we train.

We support SB 453 as a way to provide flexibility to increase the CNA training pipeline and is an essential part of solving workforce issues across the entire health care spectrum.