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Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and  
Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight  
Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

Testimony given by:  
Haely Ordoyne, Chairwoman  
Kansas Adult Care Executives Association

Representative Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to collaborate with you regarding solutions for the adult care sector and for those that serve them.

The Kansas Adult Care Executives (KACE) is a non-partisan, non-profit professional association representing nursing home administrators and assisted living operators in Kansas. Our membership is represented in both the nonprofit and for-profit adult care sectors.

### **Thank you**

Thank you all for your involvement in the support of the KDADS budget including a full rebase and capture of expenses for the most recent 3 years. These last 3 years have been financially exhausting for the healthcare industry. This action of bi-partisan collaboration is a huge show of support for our industry and we want to graciously convey that appreciation.

### **How We Will Use the Additional Funds**

We wanted to express to this committee how the additional funding will be used. Many of our providers have stated that it will be used to address; increased food costs, increased inflation of supplies and medical equipment, increasing pay for staff, paying down accounts payable and funding to supplemental nursing agencies.

### **Industry Update**

It's no secret that many who work in our industry have a fear of sustainability. 2021 brought about over 16 permanent closures of facilities in our state. Of these closures, they include 469

Nursing facility beds, 61 Assisted living beds, 45 Nursing Facility for Mental Health beds, 5 Adult Day Care beds, 34 Home Plus beds, 60 Skilled nursing beds and 454 Skilled nursing/LTC beds. In total, that's 1128 less beds available to care for individuals in our state. 17 new facilities opened in 2022, which might sound great, but they include; 141 Assisted Living beds, 36 Rural Health Care Facility beds, 15 Adult Day Care beds, and 146 Home Plus beds for a total of only 338 beds. I have included a map for reference.

Data is only good if it can be interpreted, so what are these numbers telling us?

1. Our state is now 790 beds less available to provide care.
2. The trend we are seeing is away from higher levels of care that require more time, staff and resources.
3. Home closures are happening in more rural locations and openings are happening in more urban locations.
4. If this trend continues, we will see people being forced to locate to more urban locations and people will have to travel farther to see loved ones.
5. If this trend continues, we will have no one to care for the higher levels of care needed.

### **Industry Future Concerns**

Our efforts will continue to provide excellent care to our elders in the state of Kansas. In order to do so, our priorities will continue to be focused on; the reimbursement structure of Medicare and Medicaid, workforce shortages and supplemental nursing agency oversight.

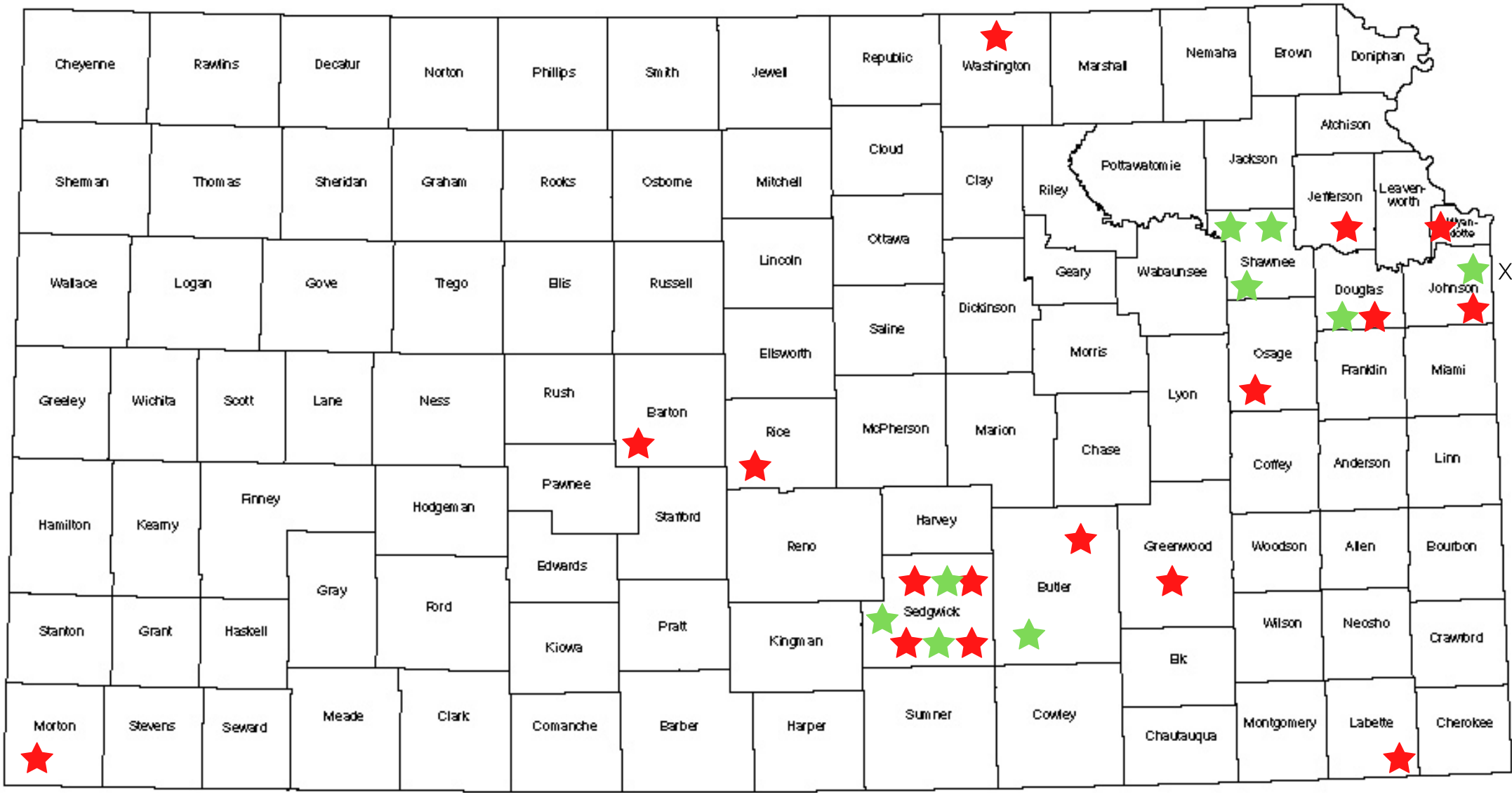
Only time will tell of the impact the state budget increases and federal budget cuts will have on our industry. It's a tightrope of sorts that we attempt to balance on daily, with constant fear of falling off. Workforce shortages must continue to be an "all hands on deck" approach. Our biggest ask from legislation regarding this issue is to team up with us in promoting this industry as the selfless, heroic, compassionate and life impacting career industry that it is. So much time and effort has been spent in portraying us as villains of abuse and that has turned so many away from seeing the positives of this industry. If we all want better care for our aging population in Kansas, we must attract individuals to want to serve in it.

Finally, supplemental nursing agency oversight will continue to be an issue that we seek supportive parameters for. When our reimbursement rates are all inclusive and capped, we cannot afford "whatever we're charged" to have staff. Not only are we still seeing astronomical rates being charged with less accountability, facilities are now reporting that agencies are demanding bonuses be handed out to their employees in our buildings if we ever give them to our own staff. This is an unsustainable model and will continue to be something that we seek support with addressing.

As always we thank you for your efforts and the time to provide you with our updates and concerns of the industry.

★ = Closures in 2021

★ = New Openings in 2021 (\* Note 8 in Johnson Co.)



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