



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: February 13, 2024

RE: House Bill 2539

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding House Bill 2539.

The Kansas Hospital Association stands in support of HB 2539 because of its ability to strengthen the healthcare workforce. The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act has been an excellent tool for training healthcare workers but we are still desperately in need of skilled employees.

CNAs are important to the ability of all nurses to provide care to patients and this training is the foundational building block in many cases in developing one's healthcare career. As such, we appreciate the inclusion of language that permits 5-hour certifications as qualifiers for the Promise Scholarship Act. This will enable students to enroll in CNA trainings and meet eligibility requirements without having to take an additional course in order to satisfy the bill's original demand of 6-hours of coursework.

The 3-year requirement to be a Kansas resident has also presented barriers to training that we are pleased to see omitted in this legislation. With the needs present at our Kansas hospitals and healthcare facilities, a new Kansas resident who wants to train as a CNA, radiology tech, or other healthcare profession is a welcome recruit. We need to eliminate barriers to training and this bill does that.

KHA would encourage this committee to recommend House Bill 2539 favorably for passage. We believe that this legislation includes important components to helping grow our state's healthcare workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.