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House Health & Human Services
Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members
February 8, 2023

HB 2049 – Proponent

Good Afternoon, Madam Chair 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 homes, 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 opportunities to come before you today to show would support for HB 2246 - AN ACT concerning health professions and practices; relating to unlicensed employees working in adult care homes; nurse aide courses of instruction; prohibiting the secretary for aging and disability services from requiring that such courses to be no longer than 75 hours; amending K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 39-936 and repealing the existing section.

Justification

The Kansas health care work force crisis has been and remains one of the largest and publicly reported issues plaguing long term care here and across the nation. Moving the required training hours to become a certified nurse aide from 90 to 75 hours is in line with the federal requirements and is a great first step. For those who feel CNA's should have more training, not less, please be aware that learning, training and expanding skills is a continuous process. The "on the job training" goes far beyond what is taught in a CNA course, be it 75 hours, 90 hours or more. Nothing replaces firsthand experience when it comes to learning how to assist individuals and meet their unique needs.

Next Steps

Last year, when SB 453 was passed, Hospitals, Hospice, and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) were added as potential sponsors of a CNA course. As a next step, I would strongly urge the legislature to allow trade associations to also sponsor the course. The sponsoring of a course is largely an administrative responsibility. Regardless of who the sponsor is, rigorous rules, standards, curriculum and qualifications must be met by the instructor. The trade associations are already allowed to train Administrators, Adult Care Home Operators, Certified Medication Assistants, Social Service Designees and Activity Directors. In addition to providing the initial training for these fields, trade associations provide continuing education for those previously listed as well as Dieticians, Social workers and others

who are non-licensed adult care home staff. We would ask you to add long term care trade associations to KSA39-936 as another option for training our much-needed direct care partners. Please help us open the pipeline a little further.

Definition

A trade association, also known as an industry trade group, business association, sector association or industry body, is an organization founded and funded by businesses that operate in a specific industry. An industry trade association participates in public relations activities such as advertising, education, publishing, lobbying, and political donations, but its focus is collaboration between companies. Associations may offer other services, such as producing conferences, holding networking or charitable events, or offering classes or educational materials. Many associations are non-profit organizations governed by bylaws and directed by officers who are also members.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony supporting HB 2049.

Linda MowBray
President/CEO
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