



Senate Bill (SB 6)

The Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA) provides our opposition for the Kansas Senate Bill (SB 6). KSNA represents the voice of our over 50,000 Registered Nurses in the state of Kansas and the communities we serve.

KSNA is in Opposition to Senate Bill (SB 6).

Identifying and monitoring prevailing health issues in the community constitutes a primary function of public health. Once a health issue is identified, public health professionals assess the issue and determine actions to mitigate the spread of disease, educate the public, and create awareness of risks, precautions, symptoms, and actions to reduce the threat of severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Quarantine is an important and essential piece of disease prevention and control. Local health officials need the ability to use every tool they have available to limit the spread of disease in an epidemic situation. Only a prompt response will contain an outbreak before it becomes regional. Local health officers are trained in public health, and act for the overall health and safety of the population they serve. Some illnesses that can be spread by coughing, sneezing, talking, or laughing, include TB, influenza, bronchitis, measles, whooping cough, chickenpox, respiratory syncytial virus, the common cold, and coronaviruses. We have seen some schools in Kansas close temporarily this year due to widespread respiratory illnesses.

Local health officers act to protect the health and safety of both the public and their own employees who work in a high-risk environment.

Local or Public Health Officers should retain the authority to limit the spread of infectious diseases by appropriate quarantine for the public good, and to protect the health and safety of their employees.

The mission statement of the Kansas State Nurses Association includes that we will advocate for the health and well-being of all people. It is for that reason that KSNA submits our opposition of Senate Bill (SB 6).

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
On behalf of the Kansas State Nurses
Association- Board of Directors

