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House of Representatives

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Ramon C. Gonzalez, Jr.  
Representative, 47th District

Written Testimony

December 9, 2016

Honorable Representative Hawkins and members of the committee:

Re: 2016 Special Committee On Organization Of Public Health Boards

I am writing this letter in support of the Kansas nurses in their opposition to their proposed umbrella structure of healthcare boards. The opposition is based in part on the potential loss of autonomy for a profession whose main mission is to protect the public. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has demonstrated efficiencies in their operations and accountability to their licensees. There is no obvious financial benefit noted in this proposal that exceeds the fiscal management by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. The initiatives that have been developed and implemented by the Kansas State Board of Nursing to expedite licensing of new graduates and nurses coming into the state is in effort to address the workforce shortage. It is also being responsive to the individual nurse in obtaining their license. The Kansas State Board of Nursing holds the licensees accountable to safe practice. Deviations from standard of care are resolved in a timely manner. In comparison, the Kansas State Board of Nursing issues licenses to 72,000 nurses with half of the staff of other boards.

In summary there is no demonstrated fiscal savings in establishing an umbrella structure, therefore I oppose this proposal.

Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramon C. Gonzalez, Jr." in a cursive style.

Representative Ramon C. Gonzalez, Jr.  
47<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Representative elect Ron Ellis  
47<sup>th</sup> District