

February 10, 2022

To: Senator Richard Hilderbrand, Chairman, and Committee members

RE: Senate Bill 453

I am writing in full support of Senate Bill 453. Many of you are aware of the serious staffing issues faced by many health care facilities in Kansas, and especially by facilities providing care and services to the elderly. This bill provides support to increase the number of qualified care providers at the Certified Nurse Aid (CNA) level in Kansas. CNAs are the backbone of long term care health services in our state and we need a stable, well-trained work force in this area.

This bill allows us to:

1. Use Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach CNA courses under the general supervision of a registered nurse.
2. Use simulation for up to 50% of nurse aide clinical hours. Studies by the National Council State Board of Nurses (NCSBN) demonstrated that nursing programs can safely and effectively use up to 50% of simulation in place of direct clinical experience.
3. Have RNs with experience in caring for the elderly or chronically ill of any age to administer the skills demonstration portion of CNA competency evaluations regardless of the setting of their experience.

As the Associate Dean, Nursing Programs at WSU Tech, I have seen both the desperate need for CNAs and the difficulty in increasing the number of candidates due to limitations on who can teach the CNA classes. These changes allow us to expand our capacity while maintaining the quality of the courses. I respectfully ask for your support of this bill so that we can better meet the needs of our elderly citizens requiring care.

Sincerely,

Sheree Utash, Ed.D.

President, WSU Tech

Wichita, KS

Patricia Plank, MSN, RN

Associate Dean, Nursing Programs

WSU Tech

Wichita, Ks.

Lynn Loveland, MPA

Dean, Health Sciences