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Written Testimony of the Proposal to Umbrella Board over Public Health Boards  
In Opposition to the Proposal

The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) is attentive and well-organized in meeting the needs of nursing programs, such as Labette Community College, and other nursing programs across the state. For example, KSBN safeguards nursing program approval, graduate nurse licensure, program director and nurse faculty development, and continuous nursing education requirements for all nurses to ensure public safety.

Specifically, KSBN has assisted a number of LCC student nurses, with unusual and complicated circumstances; navigate the application process to become registered nurses. In addition, KSBN familiarizes new nurse program directors to the role and supports them through the program approval process in order to preserve the quality of nursing programs in the state of Kansas.

My opposition to the proposal to merge the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) to Umbrella Board over Public Health Boards is that there will likely be a decrease in the quality of service to nursing students, nurse faculty members, nursing program directors, and Kansas licensed nurses. At a time when our nation needs more nurses to combat the nursing shortage, there could be a lack of timeliness to complete new nurse license applications due to limited resources. In addition, there remains a potential decrease in efficiency to track continuing nursing education requirements from licensed nurses to ensure continuous public safety.