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Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight
December 15, 2020

Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr

Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members:

I am Linda MowBray, President and CEO of Kansas Health Care Association and the Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade association representing nursing homes, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health. We are the oldest and largest nursing home trade association in Kansas. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day. The communities that care for these elders employ more than 30,000 Kansans.

Nearly 60% of residents in Kansas nursing homes rely on Medicaid administered through the KanCare program to pay for their care. State and Federal government have **failed** these individuals in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have **failed** all frail elders and they have **failed** those who provide for their care. Kansas nursing homes are struggling for their very existence. We are an industry in crisis.

Our hearts go out to the residents, family members and staff that have been affected by the pandemic. I am at a loss for a strong enough adjective to describe the loss and grief that so many have experienced since March. Thoughts and prayers help but they are not enough. We must address the following issues now for the sake of our residents and for the industry as a whole.

Issues

1. Workforce instability
2. Sky rocketing insurance rate
3. Risk of insolvency & closure

Solutions

1. Wage pass through legislation and funding
2. Liability protection
3. Stable, sustainable funding from the state

Again, I would say that our industry is in crisis. It is more than time to make Kansas elders a priority. To place the funding of the long term care industry on the same level of priority as hospitals and highways. And finally, to support this industry, this unique profession that is so needed but so villainized.

Thank you. We're counting on you.



Caring for Seniors in the Heartland

care

Our state's 331* nursing homes provide vital health care services to over 22,000 vulnerable Kansans every day.

workforce & wages

direct

nearly 28,990 jobs generating over 759.5 million dollars in annual wages

indirect

leveraging an additional \$260.8 million dollars in additional jobs and wages

1.02 billion dollars in Total Wages Generated from Kansas Long Term Care

economic impact

direct

generates nearly \$1.36 billion dollars into the Kansas economy

indirect

leveraging an additional economic impact of over \$569.6 million dollars

\$1.9 billion dollars in Total Economic Impact from Kansas Long Term Care

tax revenue

state/local

generates over \$59.1 million dollars

federal

generates \$189.9 million dollars

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Contact Linda MowBray President/CEO with questions - lmowbray@khca.org

*Data from 2019 provider cost reports. Not all homes completed cost reports