



February 12, 2022

ATTN: Chairman Richard Hilderbrand and Members

I am expressing my support for Senate Bill 453. At this time in our history, most people have been touched by COVID-19 and its lingering variants. It has also uniquely impacted every aspect of health, business, and community, besides being a historically global pandemic. Living this reality on the frontlines has been an intense and unprecedented experience. First responders and frontline caregivers know what it looks like to do their best to provide care and services amongst a compounding workforce shortage. And truly, we cannot say that was because of COVID alone. The demand for qualified healthcare workers like professional CareGivers (CNAs / CMAs / HHAs) has been growing for years.

There are several gaps that need addressing when recruiting, training, and retaining CNAs. But a few simple modernizations would make a lasting impact on improving the workforce needs in our community.

SB 453 is meant to help increase the number of students taking CNA courses, while injecting much-needed professional caregivers into our state's workforce. Some could say there are still important issues to be addressed in this area, yes. But TODAY, this will make a significant difference in getting more desperately needed CNA applicants started from student to certified. This benefits those of us that need more qualified staff, while supercharging the career paths of people wanting to get into a healthcare career path like nursing. This benefits Kansans that are struggling to find qualified services and care support from home health care to long-term care.

Sincerely,

Robert Miller, LMSW, CDP, Registered Operator
Senior Vice President, Company Development
ComfortCare Homes and Comfort Keepers of Wichita