



**Kansas Hospital**  
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

Date: February 15, 2022

RE: Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 453

The Kansas Hospital Association, on behalf of our 122 community hospital members, appreciates very much the opportunity to provide comments supporting Senate Bill 453.

Right now, the health care industry in Kansas is stretched far too thin. While our hospital systems remain hopeful that patient volumes may be reduced in the coming months, we hear from our members that two categories of workforce challenges keep them up at night: immediate recruitment and retention challenges and the longer-term future pipeline workforce challenge.

In the short term, we must address immediate needs and not lose sight of creating easier ways to allow for entry level paths into the healthcare industry.

Senate Bill 453 is designed to reduce entry barriers for those looking to get into entry-level health care positions. This legislation will assist in expanding and modernizing health care workforce training in Kansas. While it won't solve all the problems related to workforce challenges, it addresses several key issues setting Kansas up for a more flexible process to get those interested trained and involved in the health care field by:

- Allowing Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to teach CNA courses
- Allowing use of simulated lab hours to be used in the overall education process
- Allowing RN's with clinical setting experience to administer skills demonstration portion of CNA competency evaluations regardless of where they have been working – adult care home setting versus hospital setting.

We urge the committee's support of Senate Bill 453.

Thank you for your continued support of Kansas hospitals.