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To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Jerry Slaughter
Executive Director

Subject: HB 2452; concerning the board of nursing registry

Date: February 8, 2006

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on HB 2452, which establishes a central registry of nurses' employment information. We question whether there is a true need for such a registry, and we do have significant concerns about the burden and duties this bill imposes on physicians who employ nurses.

Under the provisions of HB 2452, every physician who employs nurses would be required to submit a written report to the State Board of Nursing any time a nurse leaves that physician's employment, for whatever reason. In addition, the physician would then have to send a copy of their report to the nurse that left their employment. Additionally, since nurses would be able to submit a written response to the physician's report, that response would then have to be appended to the individual's personnel file, again requiring more time and administrative expense.

In summary, this bill places a time-consuming and expensive legal duty on physicians who employ nurses. Composing such reports, and then mailing them to the Board and the affected nurse will be an unnecessary burden on physician practices. While the bill does provide immunity for such reporting, it does nothing to relieve the cost and legal duty which will be imposed on physician practices in order to comply. For that reason, we must oppose the bill. We urge you to report HB 2452 unfavorably. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.