

To: Representative Jim Morrison, Chairman
House and Human Services Committee

From: Geraldine Tyrell
President of Bethel College Chapter of the
Kansas Association of Nursing Students

Re: HB 2813

Good afternoon Chairman Morrison and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to come speak before you today. My name is Geraldine Tyrell and I am the President of the Bethel College Chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students Organization. I am here today to represent myself and my fellow nursing students of Bethel College in support of HB 2813 which would eliminate the exception in the Nurse Practice Act that allows graduate nurses to practice for up to 120 days after graduation without a license.

- Throughout our nursing education we are taught to be patient advocates and provide patient safety in all aspects of care even if this is from ourselves.
- The NCLEX is a minimum competence exam and thus GN's should not be allowed to practice without this proof of minimal competency.
- As students we have had two years of clinical experience in which to gain adequate knowledge needed to pass the NCLEX and we do not feel that an additional 120 days will greatly increase the knowledge of nursing skills in order to pass the NCLEX.
- By elimination of this exception, it will force students to take the NCLEX earlier thus increasing scores and allowing nurses to join the work force sooner.
- In theory the GN program is an excellent idea. It allows for new nurses to perfect skills under the constant supervision of a licensed RN. However, in reality this is not happening. We witness this in clinical sites everyday where we too are to be supervised by a nurse and are being told to "go ahead and administer this medication while I go check on another patient." The supervision is lacking due to understaffing and increased work loads.
- As future Proctors in healthcare settings, we would be held liable for mistakes that graduate nurses make working under our individual license.

We ask that the committee vote in favor of HB 2813 to provide safety for the citizens of the State of Kansas.

Thank You.

