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I would like to thank Chairman Rhoades and members of the House Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 427. My name is Dianne Powell. I am a registered nurse, a nursing home administrator and a teacher. I spent 12 years at Anthony Community Care Center (ACCC) first as the Director of Nursing and then as the Administrator. I left ACCC in July to open a school to teach future healthcare workers.

Anthony is located 60 miles southwest of Wichita with a population of approximately 2,250. ACCC was owned by a for profit multi-state corporation that about twelve years ago decided to close the facility. The Administrator and I fought diligently and recruited a group of townspeople to come to our aid and save the little home with a loan from the city. Anthony Community Care Center was formed as a 501c3, not faith based and not on the local tax levy.

What we were left with was almost no funding, and a grossly neglected building circa 1964. Over the years there have been numerous rallying of the community to do such important things as replacing the leaking roof, removing the old boiler system for central heat and air, and installing a much needed generator. A true and constant hand to mouth struggle, we managed to make ACCC a wonderful caring home for 45 elders and employing 50 of the local residents.

While we were able to staff well and offer excellent care, we were still faced with a 45 year old building that was not up to code and riddled with problems. We piece-mealed what we could when we could, but it was obvious a total remodel from the drafty windows to the worn out floors must be addressed.

The problem was finding funding for such projects. This is why, even though I no longer am employed at ACCC I have taken a day away from my fledgling company to come share my story with you. Please consider the fate of the small aging rural nursing homes. Support Senate Bill 427.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dianne Powell