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House Committee on Children & Seniors
Chairwoman Concannon and Committee Members
January 28, 2021

House Bill 2114 – Establishing a senior care taskforce

Proponent

Good Afternoon Madam Chairman and Committee Members. I am Linda MowBray, President/CEO of the Kansas Health Care Association and Kansas Center for Assisted Living. We are a trade Association representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing home, assisted living, residential health care, home plus, and nursing facilities for mental health communities across the state. We are the oldest nursing home trade association in Kansas and have over 265 member communities. Our members care for nearly 20,000 elders across the state each and every day and employ over 20,000 workers.

We appreciate the opportunity support the creation of a senior care task force and be an active member of it as well. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, we are better when we work together.

Adult care homes across the state and the country for that matter have been devastated by the virus. The loss of life of both residents and workers has been crushing, heartbreaking and demoralizing. Homes may close limiting options for care across the state. Good people are leaving the profession. There is no one in line to take their place. Residents as well as family members have been separated and only able to connect via technology which has affected the overall well-being of both residents and staff. We are a profession that is beat down. We need your help getting back up for the good of all Kansas residents.

While the idea of a senior care task force is not new, its time has surely come. We must work together to stabilize workforce, improve access and quality and, borrowing from KDADS motto, assure that Kansans receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

This taskforce will head us in the right direction.

Thank you and I'll stand for questions at the appropriate time

Linda MowBray, President/CEO
KHCA/KCAL