



Testimony in Opposition to HB 2049
Committee on Health and Human Services
February 8, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2049: *Changing the length of the nurse aide course required for unlicensed employees in adult care homes to 75 hours.*

I represent the network of eleven Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), created by the 1973 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. The network of the Area Agencies on Aging and k4ad are committed to advocating and helping older adults live with independence and dignity in their homes and communities, improving processes and eliminating difficulties to access care, and ensuring that the local service delivery system is tailored to the community. Since 1993, the AAAs have evolved to contract with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to provide CARE Level I PASRR assessments, options counseling, functional eligibility assessments for the BI, FE, PD waivers and PACE program under the Aging and Disability Resource Center, manage a statewide call center, and under the Administrative Case Management service, assist with navigating Medicaid financial eligibility for functionally eligible individuals accessing the aforementioned programs.

The AAAs are significantly aware of the workforce shortage in our state and nation. Under the Going Home Transition Program, funded by the Administration for Community Living and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, we assisted 55 nursing facility residents with returning to the community with supports and services. During the grant period, roughly one-third of the individuals chose to self-direct their care. Through the process of recruiting an attendant, we discovered that a C.N.A. can use credentials to seek employment outside a nursing facility and under the direction of a registered nursing. Advantageous to the individual that a quality employee was selected, training was required to ensure the C.N.A. was familiar with specific aspects of care.

It is vital to the industry to maintain a level of credentialing that protects vulnerable facility residents and consumers in the community. Although we understand that this is a potential solution to the workforce shortage, we ask the Committee to consider **amending the bill** to require annual 16-hour training to include, at a minimum, specific topics: Infection Control, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation and Reporting; Residents' Rights, and Cultural Competency. In addition, an examination of knowledge should also be required.

Thank you,
Leslie Anderson
Executive Director