

KACCT

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Testimony on HB 2049

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as neutral on HB 2049. There are some certified nurse educators which believe that the current 90 hours of training is needed. However, the majority feel that the number of hours could be reduced safely as long as the reduction comes out of the classroom training not the skills laboratory or clinical hour portion of the training.

Moving the required number of hours to 75 mirrors the total number of federally required hours. However, the bill does not address the minimum number of clinical hours required. The federal minimum clinical hours is 15, but many states who are at the 75 hour maximum hours require more than the 15 hours of clinical training. We would urge that the number of clinical hours not be reduced from the current 25 hours. The classroom portion could be condensed but educators working with these students believe it is critical that students have hands on training prior to performing as a CNA to ensure they can provide the best care to residents.

It is critical to clearly outline your intent for the different training hours. Lack of clarity could cause classes to be delayed and lengthy waits while KDADS makes the determination and changes all the many rules and regulations they are currently enforcing related to CNA training. A disruption to classes would have the opposite effect of more quickly getting people into the many open jobs. We stand ready to partner with you to ensure that your intent is clear and that all training providers understand what is expected if this bill becomes law to ensure every interested student is trained as expediently as possible.

In closing one other change that will occur because of this law which should just be noted is that due to the reduction from 90 hours to 75 hours training hours required, this will reduce the academic credit granted from 5 hours to 4 hours. This could impact the students financial aid if they are not taking any other classes and there is a minimum number of hour requirement for scholarships (there are a number of scholarships that would require at least six hours to be eligible) There are other ways to have a CNA course paid for, like by and employer, or as part of a high school student taking the class while in high school and it being paid for by the state through the Excel in CTE program, but we wanted to add this bit of information as you consider this change.

Questions contact: Heather Morgan, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, 785-221-2828, hmorgan@kacct.org.