



We extend the healing ministry of Christ by caring for those who are ill and by nurturing the health of the people in our communities.

**House Judiciary Committee
Nicole Milo & Shawna Deal
Verbal Conferee: Proponent of SB14
January 19, 2021**

Dear Representative Fred Patton,

On behalf of the Centura Health System, a network of hospitals in Colorado and Western Kansas, and specifically for St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City, Kansas, we would like to advocate for SB14. The provisions of HB 2016, now contained inside of SB 14, have been a lifeline in terms of our ability to provide skilled regional clinical coverage in Southwest Kansas. Specifically, SB14 temporarily waives state licensure and insurance requirements for out of state health care workers in good standing to provide care in Kansas during the pandemic. This measure has allowed visiting Centura Health physicians, practitioners, nurses and therapists from Colorado to efficiently respond to the need for support at St. Catherine Hospital throughout this pandemic. Without this order in place, St. Catherine, as well as other hospitals, would be challenged in their ability to provide critical care and resources throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically the surges that have occurred in western Kansas over the last 11 months. While PPE was our limiting factor in the spring, as the pandemic has ensued, we are now challenged by staffing due to a myriad of issues from the infection from the virus itself to clinician fatigue to external factors such as childcare. Due to these unforeseen shortages in staffing, this bill has become a critical tool for our system to cover these shortages during this time of crisis. Under normal circumstances, this type of order is unnecessary, but has become an essential backstop to ensure access and care in these unforeseen times.

In addition to affording us the ability to flex Colorado licensed providers, who are in good standing, into other jurisdictions in Southwest Kansas to provide critical care resources, the liability protections that are afforded are valuable to providers who are concerned about the difficult decisions they are currently making when treating a very new illness.

We respectfully request the consideration of this committee to support SB14 as we are heavily dependent upon assistance from out of state (CO and MO) clinicians. We foresee the need to utilize this order well into at least the Fall of 2021 as we continue to battle through the pandemic while we simultaneously assist the State of Kansas as a critical partner in the roll out of the vaccine to the citizens of Kansas.

Please contact either one of us directly with any questions surrounding this request.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawna Deal".

Shawna Deal
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Milo".

Nicole Milo
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