



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2049

Kansas House Committee on Health & Human Services

February 8, 2023

Andrew Wiens
On behalf of
Opportunity Solutions Project

Chair Landwehr and members of the committee,

My name is Andrew Wiens, and I'm appearing before you today on behalf of Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP). OSP is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to advancing policies that reduce barriers to work, protect state benefits for the truly needy, and ensure that the government is accountable to taxpayers and citizens.

I am pleased to speak in support of House Bill 2049 today. HB 2049 would prohibit the Secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) from adopting guidelines that would require Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) training courses instruction to be longer than 75 hours.

The 75-hour requirement meets federal regulatory requirements per 42 CFR § 483.152, which states that a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program must consist of no less than 75 clock hours of training to be approved by the State. Currently, KDADS requires 90 hours of CNA training.

Kansas is facing a critical workforce shortage. There are help wanted signs everywhere. Our healthcare sector, and long-term care in particular, is in desperate need of an abundant, stable, and well-trained workforce. CNAs are a critical component of healthcare services in our state, and the CNA is also a prerequisite for other health aide positions and some nursing programs in Kansas as well. Finding ways to fill the CNA training pipeline is an essential part of solving workforce issues across the entire healthcare spectrum.

OSP supports this legislation because it moves CNA trainees into employment sooner, allowing them to care for patients and residents who need help all across our state. This will, of course, be good for long-term care facilities, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, but the primary benefit will be realized by the patients and residents who will have workers well-trained in accordance with federal requirements. We are pleased to support HB 2049 and urge your favorable consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer your questions at the appropriate time.