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Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

Testimony given by:
Haely Ordoyne, Legislative Chair
Kansas Adult Care Executives Association

Representative Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Adult Care Executives (KACE) is a non-partisan, non-profit professional association representing nursing home administrators and assisted living operators in Kansas. Our membership is represented in both the nonprofit and for-profit adult care sectors. We are the literal boots on the ground and are on the forefront of delivering care to our aging and senior population daily.

Proponent of HB 2049

We support aligning the Kansas state requirement for certified nurse aide training hours with the federal requirement of 75 hours. Most of our neighboring states certified nurse aide training requirement align with the federal requirement of 75 hours. HB 2049 will make it easier for healthcare providers to employee staff coming from other states, especially in our border communities with Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

New CMS federal minimum staffing requirements that will go into effect this spring will widen the gap between the number of nursing staff needed and the nursing staff that are available. Estimates demonstrate 191,000 more nurses will be needed nationwide to meet the new requirements. Healthcare providers will need all available staff to remain operational, and to avoid the challenges and trauma that is created to Kansas elders when adult care homes close. KACE is in favor of creating a learning environment that provides real on the job clinical training and support that allows the nursing staff to earn income while providing care under a program that follows the federal training requirements.

As always, we thank you for your efforts and the time to provide our updates and concerns of the industry and we look forward to the legislative efforts on these critical issues. We are here to answer any questions, and we are happy to collaborate in any and all efforts to support our seniors and aging population.