

**To: The Honorable Jim Morrison, and Members,  
House Health and Human Services Committee**  
**From: Debra Zehr, Vice President**  
**Date: February 12, 2004**  
**Re: House Bill 2716**

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The Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging represents 160 not-for-profit long term care provider organizations serving 15,300 elder Kansans throughout the state. Thank you Mr. Chair, and Members of the Committee, for permitting us to offer written testimony on House Bill 2716.

Great adult care home administrators are worth their weight in gold. They lead their organizations toward the highest standard of care. They set the tone for management of the organization's greatest asset...its staff. They chart a course under precarious financial circumstances. They shepherd their organizations in an increasingly complex and onerous regulatory environment. And they do all of these things in changing times.

The nursing home of the past is passing out of existence. There is a movement going on in Kansas and around the country to transform nursing homes, from the traditional model where nursing homes ran more like an assembly line or a medical facility, into places of living and growing. These new models of care are rooted in these four pillars: 1) the elder is the decision-maker; 2) caregivers are empowered to be responsive to the elder and each other; 3) an atmosphere of home prevails, and; 4) the organization and its residents and staff are a vital and integral part of the community.

Our new long-term care leaders need to be immersed and trained in the principles and practice of these four pillars of transformation. We hope that House Bill 2716 will serve as a constructive step toward a reinvention of administrator training toward this end.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer questions.