



K A N S A S

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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**Testimony on Standards Established for
Licensure of Adult Care Home Administrators
House Bill No. 2716
to the
House Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Presented by
Jane O'Bryan, Member, Board of Adult Care Home Administrators
February 12, 2004**

Chairperson Morrison and members of the committee, I am pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments to the Kansas Adult Care Home Administrators licensing law.

House Bill 2716 amends K.S.A. 65-3501 which contains definitions related to licensure of adult care home administrators. The bill adds a definition for "preceptor" which would require adult care home administrators to complete a course of preceptor training before serving as a preceptor. The definition language for "preceptor" on page 2 of the bill, items (f) (1) and (2) is virtually the same language as in the definition of "preceptor" currently in regulation under K.A.R. 28-38-29 (I), with the exception of using the term "developmentally disabled" in lieu of "mentally retarded." Items (f) (3) and (4) on page 2 of the bill would expand the current definition by changing the minimum age for preceptors from 18 to 21 and adding a definition for "practicum." However, it appears that what is included under the definition of "practicum" does not actually define practicum but rather establishes the subject matter for practicum content. The bill also amends K.S.A. 65-3503 to require that all candidates must have training or experience *with a preceptor* to be eligible for licensure in Kansas and increases the maximum fee allowable to \$400 from \$200.

This bill would reduce the flexibility of the Board to carry out its charge in developing, imposing and enforcing standards for licensure as an adult care home administrator, and place undue restrictions on administrators to serve as preceptors. One of the important issues the Board has been grappling with in recent years is one that has also been noted on the national level, and that is the decreasing numbers of individuals seeking licensure as an administrator. The Board has considered, and will continue to consider, mechanisms to encourage more people to enter the field, and to ensure those who do enter have the necessary training and skills to be successful. However, it is the Board's position that imposing additional requirements for administrators to qualify as a preceptor will reduce the

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numbers of licensed administrators willing to devote the time and effort to mentor a candidate.

Equally as important, the requirement for training or experience *with a preceptor* will seriously restrict the numbers of candidates for reciprocity who would qualify for Kansas licensure. On January 17, 2003, the Board adopted a regulation which allows 40 hours, to a maximum of 240 hours, of credit toward the 480-hour practicum requirement for each year of experience as either an administrator of a licensed hospital who also served as the administrator of the hospital's long-term care unit, or for experience obtained as an administrator while licensed in another state. This bill would eliminate that allowance and restrict the candidates who would meet Kansas requirements.

There is a technical item to note. In the new language in Section 1, item (g), line 18, "secretary" should read "board."

On behalf of the Board of Adult Care Home Administrators, I respectfully request that House Bill 2716 not be passed by this committee.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before this committee. I will be happy to respond to any questions the committee may have on this topic.