

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on February 12, 2001 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

All members were present except: Representative Brenda Landwehr, Excused  
Representative Gwen Welshimer, Excused

Committee staff present:

Dr. Bill Wolff Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office  
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Debra Zehr, R.N. Vice President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
Jolene Grabill, Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

The Chairperson stated if the committee finished in time the Sub-Committee on Licensing would meet immediately following the meeting.

The Chairperson opened the hearing on **HB 2170 - Registration of Nursing Pools.**

Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office, briefed the committee on **HB 2170**, stating the bill deals with temporary employment in health care facilities. Every person who operates a nursing pool shall register the pool with the secretary which means the secretary of health and environment. The secretary shall establish by rules and regulations minimum standards for the registration and operation of a nursing pool.

Representative Showalter asked if hospitals have to register?

Mr. Furse replied, nursing pool means any person, firm, corporation, partnership or association engaged for hire in the business of providing or procuring temporary employment. Hospitals are not included.

Debra Zehr, Vice President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, testified as a proponent to **HB 2170**. This bill would create a registry for temporary nursing agencies; i.e., nursing pools, and authorize the Department of Health and Environment to establish minimum rules and regulations for their operation (Attachment 1).

Jolene Grabill, Kansas Advocates for Better Care, testified in support of **HB 2170**. This proposal is a mechanism to help standardize the on-going competency and availability of training for persons who are not permanently employed by nursing facilities. In establishing the rules and regulations for minimum standards designed to protect the public's right to high quality health care, it is hoped that the Secretary of Health and Environment would consider recommendations and input from an advisory committee (Attachment 2).

Joseph F. Kroll, Director, Bureau of Health Facilities, KDHE, testified opposing **HB 2170**, stating health and medical care personnel who provide services to such facilities are already qualified by virtue of other law and their licensure as nurses or certification as nurse aides. The assurance that such employees are also screened for any criminal background that might prohibit them from employment is also already provided for in existing law. If, in fact, additional qualifications are needed because our state's nurses or nurse aides are not adequately qualified, then that should be addressed through the statutes which govern those occupations (Attachment 3).

The Chairperson closed the hearing on **HB 2170**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210, Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on February 12.

The Chairperson opened the hearing on **HB 2229 - Kansas Senior Caregiving Initiative** .

The Chairperson stated that Fiscal Note had just been delivered and the estimated FY 2002 SGF was \$2,129,288 and FY 2002 all funds were \$5,059,468.

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Department, gave a briefing on **HB 2229**, stating this bill establishes a program to improve the quality of long-term care services; authorizing grants for and evaluations of new models of long-term care; concerning nursing facility reimbursement and enhanced employee training; establishing a prevention program for the improvement of the quality of long-term care services; providing for an advisory council. The Secretary of Aging would award grants to nursing facilities to implement and evaluate new models of care to improve long-term care and reduce employee turnover. The Secretary of Aging is also required by the bill to establish and implement a program that provides competitive grants to community colleges, universities, area vocational-technical colleges, and not-for-profit educational organizations. The Secretary of Human Resources is directed to evaluate the current education and training systems and methods used in the state for long-term care workers. The Secretary of Human Resources is to report this information to the Long-Term Care Services Task Force by November 1, 2001 (Attachment 4).

Debra Zehr, Vice President, Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, testified in support of **HB 2229**, stating the Kansas Senior Caregiving Initiative is a comprehensive, fiscally responsible, long-term approach to address the challenges and root problems in long term care. It builds on the goals and recommendations of the Long Term Care Task Force established by the 2000 Kansas Legislature. It will make a real difference in lives of our frailest senior Kansans (Attachment 5).

Evelyn Walters, Administrator, Frankfort Community Care Home, Inc., Frankfort, Kansas, testified in support of **HB 2229**, stating the grant program for new models of care would help facilities like the Frankfort Community Care Home start this kind of process and keep it going. Funding is needed for training the caregivers to this process. **HB 2229** would partially relieve penalties because of occupancy under 85% and help us to continue to serve the community (Attachment 6).

Jolene Grabill, Kansas Advocates for Better Care, testified as a proponent to **HB 2229** as the concepts proposed initiate a process for improvements in the system of long-term care in Kansas. The provisions will encourage a system with standards for on-site training (Attachment 7).

Jim Klausman, Kansas Health Care Association, testified as neutral to **HB 2229**, stating they believe that only by improving the quantity and quality of direct care staff would they be able to improve the quality of life for more than 24,000 Kansans who reside in their nursing facilities. While they support many of the items in **HB 2229** it is strongly felt that additional strategies must be implemented to improve the quality of long-term care services and introduced an alternative plan called *Caring in Kansas*. It is believed these two proposals could work together (Attachment 8).

John Peterson, Kansas Cemetery Association, distributed testimony on **HB 2132** that had a hearing on February 7<sup>th</sup> (Attachment 9).

The full committee adjourned at 2:50 p.m. and the Sub Committee on Licensing convened. The next meeting will be February 13.