

**Proponent Testimony on SB 100  
To the House Education Committee  
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Bonnie Sowers, MS, RN  
Nursing Education Director, Dept. of Nursing  
Hesston College, Hesston KS 67062  
[bonnie.sowers@hesston.edu](mailto:bonnie.sowers@hesston.edu)  
(620) 327-8148**

**Testimony:**

Committee Chair Aurand and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony related to SB 100.

I am a nursing education director who graduated from Ohio State University with a Master of Science degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. I am passionate about ensuring the existence of an adequate RN workforce in mental health setting and encouraging nursing students to consider this area of healthcare. Throughout my 40-plus years in nursing education, it has been evident that nursing students need much encouragement to even consider a professional career in psychiatric mental health nursing. Typically, only one or two (if any) out of each graduating class express a desire to work in this area of nursing.

I was delighted to see the introduction of SB 100, opening the existing Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship to include nursing students who are planning to work in mental health facilities. At present, students considering a future career in mental health settings are denied an opportunity to apply for the Kansas Nurse Service Scholarship. SB 100 provides an incentive and support for nursing students to consider a future career in this underserved area of healthcare.

It would mean a great deal to me, to current and future nursing students in the state of Kansas, and to all who are committed to the fight against mental illness to have the Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship opened up to those who have a heart to serve this vulnerable population within our state. Thank you very much for giving this important issue your time and attention.