



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Education
February 2, 2017

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CEO and President

Good afternoon Chair Baumgardner, and Members of the Committee. This testimony is submitted in support of Senate Bill 100.

Background

The Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship Program is administered by the Kansas Board of Regents and is intended to reduce the impact of nurse shortages, especially in rural areas of Kansas.

Students seeking a nursing scholarship must locate a sponsor who will pay up to one-half of the scholarship stipend and agree to employ the scholarship recipient within six months of licensure. Since FY 2003 the scholarships have been \$2,500 for an LPN and \$3,500 for an RN. Rural and small-approved facilities pay \$1,000 of the \$2,500 (LPN) or \$3,500 (RN) annual scholarship, and urban facilities pay one-half. Students must be enrolled full-time in a Kansas nursing program and agree to provide one year of nursing service to the sponsor for each year of scholarship support. The award is need-based only if there are more eligible applicants than available funding. Recipients who do not serve must repay the scholarship amount at the interest rate for loans made under the federal PLUS program at the time the student entered into the agreement plus five percentage points accruing from the date of release of funds.

The program is financed from the State General Fund and **sponsors'** funds. The amounts in our budget would fund 105 students at an average award of \$3,000.

Actual FY 2016: \$156,250 SGF; \$70,750 **sponsors'** funds (80 students)

Budget FY 2017: \$245,260 SGF; \$71,000 **sponsors'** funds

Budget FY 2018: \$217,255 SGF; \$71,000 **sponsors'** funds

Budget FY 2019: \$217,255 SGF; \$71,000 **sponsors'** funds

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Senate Bill 100

The proposed legislation would expand the types of medical facilities that could sponsor scholarship recipients to include employees of:

- Private treatment facilities,
- Community mental health centers,
- Mental health clinics,
- Any psychiatric hospitals,
- Residential treatment facilities,
- Residential care facilities, and
- State mental health and developmental disability hospitals.

The Kansas Board of Regents supports the changes in this legislation that widen the **program's** usage. We appreciate the efforts of Senator Baumgardner who developed this legislation to expand the use of our financial aid program in service of mental health and addiction facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.