

Concerning HB 2524 pertaining to supplemental staffing. I am speaking in OPPOSITION to the proposal.

I have been in the healthcare industry for 13 years. The last 7 as a nurse working in Quality assurance, staffing coordinator and Director of Nursing. The past 2 years has been a struggle with burnout, long hours, policy and compliance changes so much so that it took a negative toll on my mental health and I wanted to leave nursing completely.

In the past 2 years nurses have gone from front line heroes, to being shunned, belittled and in addition to having the right to body autonomy stripped away if we wish to continue in this profession. Now we must fight for the ability to work for nursing staffing agency. While agency is the only thing keeping most of us in the industry.

If HB 2524 is passed. This will collapse the healthcare industry in the state of Kansas. Our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, siblings all our loved ones will suffer as a result. There will be no one there to care for our loved ones when the facilities won't let families in because of lockdowns.

Speaking from a Quality Assurance perspective this will increase the risk of bodily injury associated with; bed sores, falls, infections, etc. related to longer call times. Infection prevention, fall prevention and wound prevention will be nearly impossible to manage with decreased staff to resident ratios. Especially in our states rural areas where adequate staffing is a struggle based on population of the county.

Speaking from a Director of Nursing perspective if HB 2524 is passed the quality and continuity of care in all of our Long Term Care facilities will decline rapidly. Thus, creating more work for the Kansas State Board of Nursing as the flood of potential calls and emails overwhelms them as a result of facilities not having the adequate staffing. Who suffers in the end? The Residents of these homes.

Speaking from a scheduling perspective. We rely on nursing agencies to assist us in filling needs. Especially when COVID is so rampant in our state and most of the staff are quarantined for personally testing positive, a household positivity, or exposure to a positive case. How are we expected to provide care to the individuals living in care homes if we can provide the adequate staffing required to do so?

To conclude; I stand in opposition of HB 2524. The psychological impact the virus its self has had on our nation is unprecedented. To pass HB 2524 would only pull the rug out further from an already collapsing healthcare profession.

Thank you,

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