



2016 Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards
December 14, 2016
Kansas Council of Practical Nurse Educators
Cynthia Jacobson, MSN, RN, President

Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee I extend my gratitude for the opportunity to address this group today. My name is Cynthia Jacobson, Director of Nursing for Highland Community College, President of the Kansas Council of Practical Nurse Educators (KCPNE) and a member of the Kansas Council of Associate Degree Nurse Educators (KCADNE). I am here on behalf of the KCPNE and KCADNE professional organizations to address concerns regarding the consolidation of the various health boards under one umbrella.

The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) is the largest health care fee fund board with approximately 72,000 active licensees. The efficiencies of this board have been presented to this Committee by Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator. The primary goal of the KSBN is to maintain the level of excellence in licensure and regulations of nurses in Kansas; and, more importantly, to uphold the assurance of safe and competent practice to the public. The professional educator organizations are concerned that the consolidation will diminish access and quality of services. Peer review of nurses by nurses brings the understanding and professional rigor to the process of licensure and regulation. Consolidation of the boards will dilute this unique professional entity that breeds consistency and quality today.

KCPNE and KADNE acknowledge the Committee's efforts to promote cost savings to the state of Kansas. There is always opportunity within an organization to review process and reorganization to create efficiencies. However, including a high performance board such as the Kansas State Board of nursing in this consolidation could result in loss of proficiency, resulting in more expense to the state in the long run and increasing the risk of public safety. Perhaps there are some boards that would benefit by the process of consolidation. We do not believe that the consolidation of the boards would be an advantage to the Kansas State Board of Nursing.

Each discipline in health care has their own set of requirements for licensure based on the professional service they are educated to provide. The health care disciplines under the Board of Healing Arts diagnose and prescribe care, nurses deliver care. There is a vast difference in the focus and direction of these disciplines. The consolidation process would bring a loss of "true peer review" to all disciplines involved. The concerns of our organizations are, once again, diminished quality and loss of efficiency should this proposed consolidation take place.

Thank-you for the opportunity to address the Committee.