



December 14, 2016

To: Members of the Special Committee on Organization of Public Health Boards

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our opinion. I represent the members of KAPN, Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association. Our organization is dedicated to assuring that all Kansans have access to cost effective, high quality care provided by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

We support the almost 5,000 APRNs in Kansas: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), Nurse Practitioners (NP).

We believe the idea to merge all public health boards together is a proposal that is trying to solve a problem that does not exist.

1. The Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts both operate efficiently – there is no data or report that finds changing the current system would be more efficient.
2. There is no fiscal note attached to this proposal. We would assume that making changes of this magnitude could have significant costs.
3. There is uncertainty about how this proposal would be more efficient. How would this work? Would there be sub boards under the main board? Another layer of board governance could add to the bureaucracy of decision making, the opposite of streamlining which is supposed to be the overarching goal.
4. There is no clear rationale to combine the boards. Each board has existed for decades, there have been no significant complaints from the public or from health professionals that current operations need to be changed.
5. How would the proposal continue to be responsive to nurses and other health professionals as well as keeping the public safe?
6. The Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts both operate on the fees generated from licensing professionals in the state. Both boards operate within their budgets and are financially responsible to maintain their budgets.

7. The Board of Nursing clearly has demonstrated efficiency of operations and processes over 72,000 licenses. Kansas nurses find the board staff to be responsive to questions and concerns. The Board of Nursing has implemented technology into the licensing procedure that has streamlined the process.
8. We believe that the Board of Nursing has sufficiently demonstrated to this committee the value of their work, the efficiency of their staff and the use of technology to a degree that other boards have copied their methodology. We firmly believe that governance of nursing belongs with nursing.
9. Our professional fees already support the general fund with 10% collected fees transferred to the general fund. Any unused funds are often swept back into the general fund.

This proposal lacks the answer to the biggest question: What cost savings can be accomplished by this proposal? Is the true goal here to use our nursing fees to support the general budget?

If this is the goal we cannot support this proposal. We urge this committee to thoughtfully consider our comments and questions.

Thank you for your time and attention. We appreciate the work you do for the great state of Kansas.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the KAPN Board of Directors

Betty Smith-Campbell, APRN-CNS