



making elder care better every day

TEMPORARY NURSE AIDES MUST NOT BE MADE PERMANENT

Statement from Mitzi McFatrach, Interim Director of KABC

January 13, 2022

KABC does not oppose the temporary continuation of the COVID emergency orders through HB 2477. However, we do want to make clear our continued and complete opposition to permanently extending the use of temporary nurse aides in Kansas long term care facilities.

Temporary aides should be viewed as an emergency, stopgap measure only. This practice must not be made permanent. Temporary aides are only required to complete 8 hours of on-line, unsupervised training. The training's content has not been validated or proven to address the work a temporary aide is given to perform with elders, nor has its worth been demonstrated in these aides' ability to safely perform in assisting elders.

There is no actual hands-on training required for them inside a long-term care facility, nor does HB 2477 require temporary nurse aides to be directly supervised by a licensed nurse or any well-trained, experienced staff. By comparison, Certified Nurse Aides have 90 hours of classroom and supervised clinical training and are supervised by licensed nurses, learning how to safely take care of older adults.

While it is cheaper for facilities to use Temporary Aides adding to their bottom line, making this emergency measure permanent will dangerously degrade the care elderly Kansans receive and do nothing to alleviate long-standing understaffing in adult care homes.