

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 348

Whereas, the shortage of health care providers in Missouri is a growing concern; and

Whereas, the long-term care community has identified a shortage of certified nurse assistants (CNAs) as a key factor in this problem; and

Whereas, the limited public testing availability is preventing individuals from becoming CNAs and entering the workforce, exacerbating the shortage of health care providers in this state; and

Whereas, the Department of Health and Senior Services has the authority and responsibility to address this issue by expanding testing sites and testing hours:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby urges the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Acting Director Paula F. Nickelson to take immediate action to expand testing sites and testing hours to increase the number of individuals who are able to become certified nurse assistants in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri Senate recognizes the critical role that CNAs play in the health care system, providing essential support to nurses and other health care providers and ensuring the safety and comfort of patients; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri Senate notes the shortage of CNAs has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has placed increased demand on health care providers and disrupted the normal operations of testing centers and educational institutions; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri Senate calls on the Department to work with community partners, including health care facilities and educational institutions and the long-term care community, to identify and address any barriers to increasing the number of available testing sites and testing hours; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Missouri Senate encourages the Department to prioritize this issue as part of its efforts to address the shortage of health care providers in Missouri, recognizing that increasing the number of CNAs will not only benefit patients, but also create new job opportunities and contribute to all economic growth of the state; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Acting Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, Paula F. Nickelson.