

Testimony to Health Human Service Committee
March 3, 2016
Betty Smith Campbell

My name is Betty Smith Campbell today I am the voice of patients. My husband, John and I, see a Nurse Practitioner as our primary care provider. Although for health insurance purposes only the physician can be my primary care provider. Before we were able to see the NP we had to have an initial visit with the physician, even though we were healthy, had no major medical problems and knew that we wanted the NP to provide our care – this was costly and did not give us a choice in our health care provider.

Our nurse practitioner has provided caring quality care. When we have had a problem arise, as with my husband labs that were positive for Cancer she referred us to an oncologist for further diagnosis and treatment. When she observed a spot on my skin that seemed unusual and was concerned about she referred me to a dermatologist.

Problems that have occurred while having the NP as our provider include medications that have the Doctors name on it and thus when the pharmacist had a question they ask for the Doctor – who was not familiar with our care. This has also occurred with laboratory results that not only included additional cost for us but additional time which delayed our treatment.

When our nurse practitioner moved to another physician office we were not informed that she had moved nor given information on where she had gone. We were able to eventually find where she was practicing from friends and then we transferred to her new practice site – again having to see the physician first.

I am frustrated with the current system that does not give me a choice of provider and requires unnecessary and costly repetition of medical visits. I speak for the patients of Liberal who lost their access to their NP with the death of the mandated collaborative physician, who were unable to receive their live saving medication or see the NP that had been caring for them.

And I am not alone – in more than one study, we the public believe that Nurse Practitioners are safe, and provide quality care; and there are others like me who would prefer to go to a Nurse Practitioner for my basic primary care needs. This includes AARP.

I am concerned that physician organizations are crowding out my voice and that of others. I believe that APRNs are acting in the best interest of the public.

I worry that physician groups are mainly worried about their bottom line and that I the consumer getting affordable access to care is not at the top of their priority list. As noted in the Physician Foundation Report on Accept No Substitute: A Report to stop Scope of Practice expansion for all non-MD providers – the non-biased researchers for the report clearly found that physicians do have a financial stake in the scope of practice conflicts and that when they control APRN practice this increases their revenues and as one *physicians stated “provides a turbo boost to their bottom line”*

I believe, as noted by the Citizen’s Advocacy Center that AMA and KMS, policies are designed to protect the interests of physicians, and do not always benefit the public, I agree with the Citizens group that the process to make policy decisions should be unbiased, comprehensive and focused on the interests of consumers and the public. I would like policy to be in my interest as a citizen of Kansas – where I can choose my provider and receive cost effective care. Thank you