

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 29, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Amy Siple, APRN
Michelle Knowles, APRN
Monica Scheibmeir, APRN, Dean of Nursing, Washburn University
Rae Lyn Mefford, APRN, Wichita
Laura Sidlinger, President, Kansas State Nurses Association
Mary Beth Miller, MD
Lynn Fisher, MD, Rooks County Health Center
Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society (KMS)
Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Bill introductions

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the meeting to bill introductions.

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook indicated that she had three bills to introduce. The first bill repeals the restriction of psychotropic drugs for Medicaid patients. The second bill informs consumers about hospital facility fees. The third bill restructures the KanCare Oversight Committee and changes the number of days it meets when the Legislature is not in session. Without objection, the bills were introduced.

Hearing on: SB69 — Advanced practice registered nurses; scope of practice and prescribing authority.

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the hearing on **SB69**.

Amy Siple testified in support of **SB69**. She stated that where nurse practitioners have autonomous practice, there is no difference in patient outcomes. **SB69** will help us accomplish our opportunity to find safe, cost effective health care to Kansans and increase their ability to find access to our services.

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[\(Attachment 1\)](#)

Nobuko Folmsbee, staff revisor, gave a brief overview of the bill.

Michelle Knowles testified in support of **SB69**. Ms. Knowles stated that we have an increased demand for health professionals all over the state, but especially in the rural and underserved areas. **SB69** finds a real solution to improve access to care for Kansas citizens. [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

Dr. Monica Scheibmeir testified in support of **SB69**. Dr. Scheibmeir stated that evidence has consistently shown that patient care outcomes are not diminished by receiving care from an APRN. Advance practice nurses in Kansas have the education, clinical expertise, leadership skills, and understanding of organizations, health policy and decision making to play an important role in client and health-care systems now and in the future. [\(Attachment 3\)](#)

Rae Lyn Mefford testified in support of **SB69**. Ms. Mefford stated that our scope is not changing, we already create a plan of care, we already diagnose and prescribe. This is only removing the barrier, the mandated collaborative practice agreement. [\(Attachment 4\)](#)

Laura Sidlinger testified in support of **SB69**. Ms. Sidlinger asked the committee to read her testimony stating that it highlights some of the biggest issues in mental health care and how nurse practitioners are providing outstanding care to their mentally ill consumers. [\(Attachment 5\)](#)

Dr. Mary Beth Miller testified in opposition of **SB69**. Dr. Miller stated that when we start to put wedges between the teams that are working together instead of figuring out ways that we can work together better, it's going to make it harder to come up with a nice seamless development and provision of medical care in the state of Kansas. [\(Attachment 6\)](#)

Dr. Lynn Fisher testified in opposition of **SB69**. Dr. Fisher stated that he believes that going forward the solution is to continue with team-based care. Evidence shows that patients benefit when physicians and advanced practice colleagues work together as a team, and that care is more cost effective. [\(Attachment 7\)](#)

Jerry Slaughter, KMS, testified in opposition of **SB69**. Mr. Slaughter stated that they acknowledge the fact that these two professions have scopes of practice that are beginning to intersect in places. Mr. Slaughter stated that they have a proposal and he will provide the statutory language when it is completed that would set up a new structure requiring the Board of Nursing and the Board of Healing Arts to jointly adopt regulations relating to APRN practice. [\(Attachment 8\)](#)

Bob Williams, KAOM, testified in opposition of **SB69**. Mr. Williams stated that **SB69** goes a lot further than the collaborative agreement, it addresses a number of other issues. Mr. Williams also expressed concern with the amount of educational hours that would allow APRNs to practice as primary care

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providers. ([Attachment 9](#))

Written testimony in support of **SB69** was submitted by:

Kendra Wyatt and Catherine Gordon, CNM, FNP-BC, APRN, New Birth Company ([Attachment 10](#))

Gregory Beck ([Attachment 11](#))

Rodger Woods, Kansas Deputy State Director, Americans for Prosperity ([Attachment 12](#))

Rachel Monger, Director of Government Affairs, LeadingAge Kansas ([Attachment 13](#))

Jamie Harrington, MSN, APRN, CNM, FNP-BC ([Attachment 14](#))

Belinda P. Childs, APRN, Great Plains Diabetes ([Attachment 15](#))

Board of Directors, Kansas Affiliate American College of Nurse-Midwives ([Attachment 16](#))

Jesse Bushman, Director, Advocacy and Government Affairs, American College of Nurse-Midwives ([Attachment 17](#))

Vanessa Sanburn ([Attachment 18](#))

Tabitha Alterman and Tim Nauman ([Attachment 19](#))

Pamela Fruechting, PhD, FNP-BC, ONP-C ([Attachment 20](#))

Written neutral testimony for **SB69** was submitted by:

Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator, Kansas State Board of Nursing ([Attachment 21](#))

After questions by the committee were answered, Chairperson Pilcher-Cook closed the hearing on **SB69**.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2015.