

### **Testimony in Support of Bill SB 141**

Madam Chair and Committee Members, Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of the proposed bill.

My name is David Blancho DPM, I am a podiatrist who has recently joined Orthopedic Specialists of the Four States in Galena, KS. Ortho 4 States is a large orthopedic practice in southeast Kansas employing 10 surgeons that are all trained in orthopedics and further specialized into major orthopedic surgical fields. I am currently the only surgeon with specialized training involving the foot and ankle.

I have been in practice since September of 2013. In my 36-month residency training in inner-city Philadelphia, PA I was trained extensively in treating all ailments of the foot, ankle, and leg. I also trained in managing these patients from a medical aspect in conjunction with their primary care doctor and/or midlevel provider that was often in conjunction with their medical team. In my current practice I manage all foot and ankle surgery and cover all necessary treatments and medical conditions involving the leg. This includes a variety of surgical procedures from foot and ankle trauma, or diabetic limb salvage, to reconstruction of severe congenital deformities. My practice is in accordance with the national standards that are set by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) in conjunction with the American Board of Podiatric Surgery (ABPS), as well as the standards set by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. These organizations are responsible for maintaining the quality of education a podiatrist receives when graduating from an approved residency program. In these standards all surgeons are meeting appropriate requirements that adequately train them in extensive surgeries involving both the foot and ankle as well as the management of these patients.

We as podiatrist have trained extensively in conjunction with our M.D. and D.O. peers. We, as well as our medical peers, currently maintain an extensive workload that is comparative or exceeding that of other specialties which are able to benefit from the ability to delegate to a midlevel provider such as a physician assistant or nurse practitioner. This is an especially growing need due to the increased patient loads. As more patients are receiving care with new legislature changes increasing the number of patients with medical insurance the demand on physicians is constantly increasing. This is becoming a larger problem where there fewer physicians coming out of medical schools with an increased demands on patient loads, paperwork, and other hospital logistics that limit the ability of a single provider to offer the upmost care with such a high workload.

Midlevel providers would help to lessen this burden and work under the delegation of the practicing surgeon. The practice would be well within the standards set by the governing bodies of the physician and the mid-levels governing bodies.

I am in support of the proposed bill SB 141.

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, Thank you for this opportunity. I welcome any questions or concerns you may have with the proposed bill.

Thank You,  
David Blancho DPM