

# Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants

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## **Neutral** Testimony on Senate Bill No. 141

### **Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare**

**February 16, 2015**

Dear Chairwoman Pilcher-Cook and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare:

My name is Doug Smith and I serve as Executive Director of the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants (KAPA). Thank you for allowing the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants to testify on Senate Bill No. 141.

KAPA serves as the official representative voice for the Physician Assistants (PAs) in Kansas. Our purpose is to enhance the quality of medical care of the citizens of Kansas by providing medical education to physician assistants, other health professionals, the legislative and governing bodies and to the public.

The Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants appears today in a neutral position on this measure which would authorize a podiatrist to delegate acts that constitute the practice of podiatry to a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse. We just became aware of the proposal on January 26th and we have not had a chance to visit with the proponents about including PAs in professional relationships with podiatrists and how they envision PA utilization in their practices. Our Board of Directors has not had an opportunity to discuss the proposal before you today.

Our initial research indicates that PAs are permitted in some states to assist a podiatrist, but only a few states permit a podiatrist to act as a supervising physician. We want to review the laws and regulations of other states to determine the application to the Kansas Physician Assistant Licensure Act.

Therefore, we request that the Committee table Senate Bill No. 141 and allow us an opportunity to work with the Kansas Podiatric Medical Association on this proposal. If it is the intent of the Committee to pursue the legislation we ask that you strike the reference to Physician Assistant in the bill.

Until we can fully assess the opportunities and impacts of this legislation we are unable to offer our support.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely

Doug Smith  
Executive Director