



TESTIMONY  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
SB 218  
February 18, 2015

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding SB 218. KAOM is in support of SB 218.

While the Kansas Medical Society (KMS) took center stage with the crafting of SB 218, KAOM worked with KMS and the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFF) on the conceptual development of the bill.

KAOM believes that collaborative arrangements between physicians and non-physician practitioners are a good thing. For decades collaborative arrangements have provided for the delivery of safe, quality health care to Kansans. The health care community has embraced the Medical Home model of health care delivery in which physician led teams provide comprehensive health care for patients.

If APRNs are to have an advanced role in the delivery of health care, it only makes sense that physicians (who have both extensive medical education and comprehensive training that prepares them to understand medical treatment of disease, complex case management, and surgery) and nurses jointly participate in the development of the APRN advanced role. KAOM strongly believes those who are charged with the responsibility to practice medicine and surgery in Kansas have an obligation to provide joint oversight of APRNs as they move forward. The creation of a "joint adopting authority" is an innovative, creative approach to the issues and concerns brought forward by APRNs and allows for careful, prudent oversight.

KAOM encourages the committee to support SB 218.

Thank you.