

February 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate and House of Representatives,

My name is Anne Kancel and I am a pediatric anesthesiologist currently practicing in Missouri and Kansas at Children's Mercy Hospital. I am writing you this letter in strong support of licensing Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in the state of Kansas.

I have experience working with both Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) as well as Certified Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) as part of our care team model. Currently our CAAs are only able to practice at our Missouri location due to the lack of licensure opportunity in the state of Kansas. I can attest as a physician who supervises CAAs and CRNAs as well as participates in the training of CAA and CRNA students that CAAs are well trained and highly capable members of the care team model. At our institution CAAs provide safe, thoughtful anesthesia care to our pediatric population on daily basis that is equivalent to that of a CRNA.

I believe the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model provides the safest and most effective care for patients, of which CAAs work exclusively within. This model includes a physician anesthesiologist supervising up to four non-physician CAAs or CRNAs providing care. In this model CAAs have identical responsibilities related to patient care as well as technical capabilities when compared to CRNAs. This is the model currently used at our Missouri location. If licensure is approved for CAAs in the state of Kansas it would help alleviate the shortage of anesthesia providers in the state as well as offset the need for locum tenens. The care team model improves patient safety by providing a collaborative approach to patient care working together under the direction of physician anesthesiologist. Through this redundancy in monitoring by multiple providers you can ensure a quicker response to possible complications in addition to maximizing vigilance.

In summary I believe CAAs provide safe effective care that is equivalent to that of a nurse anesthetist. They are essential to our care team model at our Missouri location and I am strongly in support of their licensure in the state of Kansas so our patients at our Kansas location can experience that same level of care.

Sincerely,

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