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I am writing to express my strong support for the licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in Kansas. As a pediatric surgeon who has worked closely with CAAs at Children's Mercy Hospital, I have firsthand experience with the high level of skill, professionalism, and dedication they bring to the anesthesiology care team. Their training and expertise ensure the safe and effective delivery of anesthesia services under the direction of an anesthesiologist, enhancing patient care and improving efficiency in operating rooms.

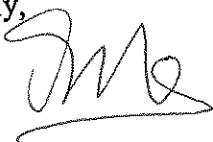
Kansas, like many states, faces significant challenges in maintaining adequate anesthesia staffing. Allowing CAAs to practice in Kansas will help address these shortages and expand access to critical anesthesia services without displacing existing providers. The anesthesiologist-led care team model has proven successful at other institutions, where CAAs and CRNAs work together to provide high-quality anesthesia care. There is more than enough demand in Kansas for both CAAs and CRNAs to practice side by side in a collaborative and complementary manner.

In my own experience, I have personally witnessed the impact of anesthesia staffing shortages in other states. These shortages can lead to delays in surgical procedures, increased patient wait times, and added strain on healthcare providers. By licensing CAAs in Kansas, we can take a proactive step toward mitigating these challenges and ensuring that patients receive the care they need in a timely and safe manner.

I strongly urge you to support legislation allowing CAAs to practice in Kansas. Their inclusion in the workforce will help address staffing shortages, enhance patient safety, and strengthen the anesthesiology care team model.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Omar', written over a horizontal line.

Omar Núñez, MD, FACS  
Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgeon