



To: House Health and Human Services Committee

Date: March 8, 2025

From: Rachelle Colombo, Executive Director

Re: SB 67; authorizing the independent practice of medicine for nurse anesthetists

SB 67 allows a certified registered nurse anesthetist to independently prescribe, procure and administer drugs and to order durable medical equipment. As amended, the bill does retain the requirement for a physician or dentist to order anesthesia.

CRNAs are one of four categories of advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and notably, have asked to be exempted from each of the proposals for independent practice that the broader APRN groups have brought to the legislature over the last dozen years. The CRNAs have a separate practice act that was established through careful deliberation in 2010. They currently serve in most every community, providing anesthesia care in both CRNA clinics and hospitals across the state. They are not required to have direct physician supervision but are limited from ordering anesthesia or initiating treatment and prescribing without physician or dentist direction.

Proponents have said they would like all APRNs to have the same privileges and that SB 67 would allow this category what the legislature granted other APRNs in 2022, and that they are employing APRNs. If true, this is a violation of both the Nurse Practice Act and the CRNA practice act. However, SB 67 in its amended form would grant CRNAs independent prescribing privileges commensurate with other APRNs.

In its original form, SB 67 went much further than the nurse practice act which allows an APRN to independently prescribe and order durable medical equipment but in no other way expands their scope of practice. The nurse practice act still prohibits them from practicing the healing arts. The legislature did not authorize APRNs to perform other medical acts such as the ordering of tests, performance of procedures or initiation of medical treatment.

Though the Kansas Medical Society does not support authorizing non-physicians to independently diagnose or prescribe medications for patients, we recognize the desire for CRNAs to have commensurate privileges as other categories of APRNs.

KMS opposes SB 67 and respectfully requests your careful and consistent consideration of this legislation.