

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
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To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Dan Hawkins, Chair

From: Kathleen Selzler Lippert, JD Executive Director
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts

Date: March 14, 2016

Subject: HB 2732 Nurse Midwives Independent Practice

Proponent testimony

The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (KSBHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2732. The KSBHA presently licenses and regulates 13 health care professions. The mission of the KSBHA is to safeguard the public and strengthen the healing arts.

HB 2732 provides nurse midwives two separate and distinct practice options. Nurse midwives licensed by the Board of Healing Arts would not be required to maintain a collaborative practice agreement with a physician to provide clinical services associated with normal, uncomplicated pregnancy and delivery. A seven-member advisory council comprised of a majority of certified nurse midwives and three others appointed by the Board of Healing Arts would be established to help develop necessary regulations and implement the provisions of HB 2732. Nurse midwives desiring to continue to work in a collaborative practice arrangement with physicians would continue to be licensed under the Board of Nursing and their scope of practice would remain unaffected.

KSBHA believes HB 2732 provides for the substantive needs of the nurse midwives and provides protections to promote patient safety.

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