

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Kansas Section

March 14, 2016

Testimony Regarding HB 2732 -- Providing for certified nurse-midwife practice without collaborative practice agreements.

Position – Proponent

HB 2732 represents a workable and sustainable compromise which should successfully appease midwifery advocates who are seeking to expand the scope of practice of Nurse Midwives in Kansas.

The Kansas Section of ACOG is supportive of this legislation for several reasons.

- The legislation preserves the ability of Nurse Midwives to move into independent practice under the Board of Healing Arts which is the appropriate place for the licensing and certification process to occur for those wishing to pursue independent practice.
- The legislation statutorily defines the scope of practice of an independently practicing Nurse Midwife to be services limited to those essential for “normal uncomplicated” pregnancies.
- It is important to note also that the legislation leaves intact the current statute requiring a collaborative practice agreement with a qualified physician for those midwives who do not wish to pursue independent practice.
- Additionally the legislation establishes a separate midwives council to advise the Board of Healing Arts regarding the execution of the provisions of this act. The membership of that board requires obstetricians to be active participants in the implementation of independent practice guidelines and requirements.
- Lastly this bill should be seen as one that achieves the goals of midwives wishing to enter into independent practice – a change that ACOG supports – but it also addresses Independent Practice in an intelligent manner while still preserving patient safety.

The Kansas Section of ACOG believes this to be a workable path forward which addresses concerns that exist among our physician members. We are glad that while our healthcare colleagues in the midwifery profession are being allowed to move toward independent practice, it is being done under the auspices of the Kansas Board of Healing Arts in conjunction with the Kansas Board of Nursing.

If you have any further questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Robert Noland the Ks Section of ACOG lobbyist and he will be glad to help you.