

To: Health & Human Services Committee
From: Kansas Affiliate College of Nurse-Midwives- Legislative Committee
Date: 3/14/16
Subject: HB 2732; Providing for certified nurse-midwife practice without collaborative practice agreements under the Supervision of the Board of Healing Arts

Greetings,

In framing our remarks, we believe there is a simple question to be answered.

Does the bill create full practice authority for Certified Nurse Midwives per the recommendations of the Alvarez & Marsal report ? There are two definitions vital to understanding this question.

Scope of Nurse-Midwives Sec 2, Regarding the “definition of independent midwifery” in HB 2732, reflects the “direct entry midwives” in Kansas, not the nurse-midwives. Direct entry midwives are providing care to women of childbearing age during labor birth and postpartum, and they pride themselves in being experts in out of hospital birth. There is a distinct difference in direct entry midwives and nurse-midwives. Direct Entry Midwives are not required to have a High School diploma or degree. Whereas a nurse-midwives are bachelor prepared registered nurses with a specialty focus master degree in nurse midwifery. The education of a nurse-midwife is much broader than the definition given in HB 2732.

Full practice authority is the collection of state practice and licensure laws that allow for Certified Nurse Midwives to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and manage treatments, including prescribe medications, under the exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing. This bill simply trades the current collaborative signature required by a physician in place of licensure regulation oversight by the board of healing arts.

Our speakers today:

Cara Busenhardt, Director of KU Nurse-Midwifery Program
Crystal Murphy, President of Kansas Affiliate of Certified Nurse Midwives
Kelly Fritz, CNM , Manya Schmidt, and Sharon Foster, CNM are available to answer questions.

Attachments:

KS Affiliate Letter re: HB2732
Education, Certification & Licensure of Certified Nurse Midwives
Written Testimony from Dr. Betsy Wickstrom, FACOG

HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DATE:

3/14/16

ATTACHMENT

5