

Representative Daniel Hawkins
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street, Room 521 East
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: House Bill 2732 and HB 2280

March 14, 2016

Dear Representative Hawkins and Esteemed Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

Last year I submitted the following testimony in support of Kansas Nurse-Midwives and HB2280: *I cannot state more emphatically my trust, as a high risk pregnancy specialist with more than 20 years' experience, in the care delivered by well trained, experienced, certified and licensed nurse-midwives to the women who meet low risk criteria. I trust them with my patients, I trust them to refer appropriately to my office and my hospital practice, and I have trusted them with my own birth.*

While well intended, HB2732 does not reflect ACOG & ACNM's Joint Statement on Team Based Care and Practice Relations recognizing Nurse-Midwives as independent licensed providers, regulated by a Board of Nursing. It is vital to Kansas' ability to recruit and retain maternity professionals that Kansas policy recognize national professional organizations such as SMFM, ACOG, and ACNM and their consensus recommendations.

I encourage members of the committee to revisit HB2280 and add a modified Sec 9 (a) from HB2732, to address the legislature's desire for physicians to play a role in the future of Kansas Nurse-Midwifery that is both respectful and consistent with the nature of our professional relationship.

Sec. 9. (a) There is hereby established a nurse-midwives committee to advise the board in carrying out the provisions of this act. The committee shall consist of seven members, all residents of the state of Kansas appointed as follows: Two members shall be licensees of the board of healing arts, appointed by the board of healing arts, who are licensed to practice medicine and surgery and whose specialty and customary practice includes obstetrics; one member shall be the president of the board of nursing or a board member designated by the president of the board of nursing; and four members shall be certified nurse-midwives licensed and appointed by the board of nursing.

As you consider HB 2732 and HB2280, please utilize me as a resource for your questions and concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wickstrom, MD, FACOG and Kansas resident
Director of Maternal Fetal Services
Shawnee Mission Medical Center

References:

1. Levels of maternal care. Obstetric Care Consensus No. 2. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2015; 125:502-15
2. Kansas Department of Health and Environment Annual Summary of Vital Statistics, 2012
3. ACOG: American Congress of Obstetrics & Gynecology=
4. SMFM: Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine
5. ACNM: American College of Nurse-Midwives
6. The opinions expressed in this email are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of my employer or hospital(s) of practice.

HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: 3/15/16

ATTACHMENT 8