

Public Health and Welfares Committee

January 29, 2015

Written Neutral Testimony for SB 69

Mary Blubaugh MSN, RN
Executive Administrator

Good Afternoon Chair Pilcher-Cook and Members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. My name is Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator for the Kansas State Board of Nursing. I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Board Members for SB 69.

National Council of State Board of Nursing and the Advance Practice Nursing Consensus Work Group developed the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Consensus Model for APRN Regulation. This document defines APRN practice, the emergence of new roles, and strategies for implementation of the model. During the 2008 annual meeting of the National Council of State Board of Nursing, delegates from states across the country voted to accept the consensus model and language for model rules. A few of the goals of the Consensus Model are to promote quality APRN education and practice, set standards that protect the public, and improve mobility and improve access to safe, quality APRN care. Kansas has already adopted some of the standards outlined in the Consensus Model and SB 69 would move Kansas towards reaching enactment of this model.

One of the benefits of implementing the consensus model is that certification is required and this assures the public that not only does the APRN have a graduate degree; they have also passed a psychometrically sound exam that measures competency.

The APRN practices under both a registered nurse (RN) and APRN license which helps assure public safety. The Kansas State Board of Nursing regulates RNs and APRNs in Kansas. RNs and APRNS are regulated by boards of nursing in all 50 states.

The Board of Nursing reviewed the proposed legislative changes of SB 69 at their December meeting and could implement the changes without any additional staff or resources. Thank you and please contact me if you have any questions.