

Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare Committee
In Opposition to HB2205/SB218
Michael Moore

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Nurse Practitioners across the state of Kansas. I'm here to speak on behalf of HB 2205/218 and my opposition to a bill that will impact Nurse Practitioners and affect current and future practice across the state of Kansas.

I am a Nurse Practitioner, full time at Great Bend Regional Hospital Emergency Department, in Great Bend Kansas, Nationally boarded and certified, educated and trained in my area of practice. I care for more than 2000 patients a year that arrive to the emergency department. I am governed by the board of nursing to protect the public, provide access to care, consult with specialist when necessary, and have working relationships with physicians that promote positive patient outcomes. I have advanced training and education that allows me to care for patients across their life span. It is the governing body of the Board of Nursing and statutes within that allow me and all Nurse Practitioners to care for patients in various environments and settings across the state of Kansas.

I have several concerns regarding HB 2205/SB218. I believe that this bill is intended to object Nurse Practitioners ability to practice as they currently do in their respective environments; restricts Nurse Practitioners ability to practice within their education and training; discredits the language of the current Kansas Board of Nursing Statues and sets up a mechanism to govern the practice of Nurse Practitioners by another board other than the board of nursing. A joint board between Physicians and Nurse Practitioners is not the answer or a compromise to providing care to patients across Kansas. This bill sets a mechanism to restrict practice, suggest that the board of nursing is ineffective in governing Nurse Practitioners, and even suggests we don't have working relationships with physicians in our communities. This is simply false and a misrepresentation without sound evidence that a joint board is necessary for the patients of Kansas.

Providing Patient care is a dynamic process with many scopes of practice overlying one another. This includes Nurse Practitioners and Physicians. HB 2205/SB218 does not address these overlying scopes of practice and current practice. Nurse Practitioners collaborate with all members of the health care team that includes physicians, social workers, occupational therapists, specialists, and other allied providers. This bill suggest that Nurse Practitioners redefine their practice without evidence that patient care is being compromised or poses any health risk to patients. The Kansas Board of Nursing has governed Nurse Practitioners for more than 40 years without any joint board necessary to provide care to patients across Kansas.

Respectfully,

Michael Moore APRN-C