

To: Chairman Dan Hawkins, and Members of The House Health and Human Services Committee

My name is Dr. Damon "Chris" Dixon, M.D. I represent Anesthesia Associates of Kansas City, and we are supporters of HB2046.

As stated by the American Society of Anesthesiologists: Anesthesia Assistants (AAs) are recognized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as non-physician anesthetists with identical standing to nurse anesthetists, and the services of AAs and nurse anesthetists on a care team are paid for by CMS and by commercial insurers on an equal basis. AAs are authorized to work in any VA hospital, and they work side by side with nurse anesthetists in many academic departments and private anesthesia practices.

The care team model is the best model for the care and safety of patients during surgery. The patient benefits from the more extensive training of the physician. Safety is also enhanced by redundancy of a second healthcare provider, without doubling the costs. Patients want and trust physician led care. Hospitals who have a choice, choose physician led care.

Allowing AAs in Kansas promotes a proven culture of safety. There is no intention to exclude anyone from the healthcare team. On the contrary, to achieve the goal of increased safety and access, reduced costs, and better patient experience, we are going to need "all hands on deck."

When you consider HB2046, we respectfully request favorable passage.

Sincerely,

Damon C. Dixon, M.D.

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