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**Testimony Before the
House Health and Human Services Committee
By
Holly Cobb, MSN, APRN-C
Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association**

February 1st, 2018

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee;

The Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association (KAPN) representing nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists, would like to offer supportive testimony of HB 2512, coverage parity for telehealth services. Telehealth capabilities have been utilized since the 1990's and its potential for improving access to care, decreasing costs and improving health outcomes are now being realized. Telehealth nursing includes such services as home monitoring, patient care, patient education and training.

However, we would like the Health and Human Services Committee members to consider and discuss clarification of the definition of telehealth providers stated in HB 2512. The bill describes providers as a licensed mental healthcare professional or a physician and refers to other telehealth providers as "supervised by a physician." Sec.4 (b).

Advanced practice nurses provide telehealth services in the state in a variety of settings. In this bill the category recognized as “supervised by a physician” does not describe advanced practice nursing; we understand the intention of the bill is not to exclude APRNs and we support that intention. Our legal scope of practice is to provide care authorized by a collaborative practice agreement. Further, our practice is governed by the Kansas State Board of Nursing; and support the Board of Nursing in establishing and promulgating rules and regulations for APRN telehealth practice.

Advanced practice nurses join our health care colleagues embracing and utilizing telehealth avenues to extend our services for our patients. We urge this committee to support HB 2512 with the clarifications and inclusion of APRNs as providers and support the Kansas State Board of Nursing to continue serving as the governing body of APRN practice.

Thank you for your honorable service to Kansas and to its citizens.

Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Holly Cobb MSN, APRN-C
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Suggestion for Amendments

Amend (d) "Healthcare provider" means a licensed mental healthcare Professional, ~~or a~~ *an APRN practicing per collaborative agreement*, or a physician.

Amend The BOHA shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of Kansas telemedicine act. Such rules and regulation shall be adopted by December 31, 2018.

(c) The BSRB shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of Kansas telemedicine act. Such rules and regulations shall be adopted by December 31, 2018.

(d) The KSBN shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of Kansas telemedicine act. Such rules and regulation shall be adopted by December 31, 2018.