



**Testimony re: HB 2674
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
By Marilyn Douglass, DNP APRN-FNP-C
President
Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association
March 19, 2018**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marilyn Douglass and I am a family nurse practitioner and the President of the Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association or KAPN.

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 2674, 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 patient care, home monitoring, patient education and training.

KAPN appreciates the inclusion of APRNs and PAs as healthcare providers for telehealth. Further, we ask that this Committee consider and propose an amendment to add language that directs the Kansas Board of Nursing to establish rules and regulations to effectuate APRN telehealth practice as defined by this bill. I would like to offer this suggested amendment:

New Sec. 5. (a) The BOHA, following consultation with the state board of pharmacy and the board of nursing, shall adopt rules and regulations relating to the prescribing of drugs, including controlled substances via telemedicine. Such rules and regulations shall be adopted by December 31, 2018.

(b) 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 board of Nursing shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of Kansas telemedicine act as it relates to advanced practice registered nurses. Such rules and regulation shall be adopted by December 31, 2018.



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 2674 with the proposed amendment that directs the Kansas State Board of Nursing to establish rules and regulations for telehealth provided by APRNs.

Thank you for your honorable service to Kansas and to its citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you regarding this issue and I would be happy to answer any questions.