

Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants

Remarks Concerning House Bill No. 2723 House Committee on Federal and State Affairs March 10, 2020

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

My name is Doug Smith and I serve as Executive Director of the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants (KAPA). Thank you for allowing the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants to appear on this matter.

KAPA serves as the official representative voice for the Physician Assistants (PAs) in Kansas. Our purpose is to enhance the quality of medical care of the citizens of Kansas by providing medical education to physician assistants, other health professionals, the legislative and governing bodies and to the public.

The Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants appears today in a neutral position on the House Bill No. 2723.

My comments today will address one specific section of the legislation that relates directly to physician assistants.

K.S.A. 65-6124(b), section two of the bill on page three, affords emergency medical service providers, with certain exceptions, protection from liability when following instructions for emergency care from “a physician, the supervising physician for a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or licensed professional nurse”. The term “supervising physician” is no longer used in the Kansas Physician Assistant Practice Act and this language should have been cleaned up in 2016 when the PA Practice Act was changed.

Since it refers to a supervising physician for a PA the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants is concerned current language could be interpreted to exclude instructions from a physician assistant performing in their professional capacity.

We suggest that if you elect to advance this measure, the Committee should consider striking the wording “the supervising physician for a” (in lines 18 and 19) and simply refer to a physician assistant. Any physician working collaboratively with a physician assistant would already be included in the definition of “physician”.

We ask for your consideration of our proposed amendment to House Bill No. 2734.

Sincerely

Doug Smith
Executive Director