



**House Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2066
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Monday, February 11, 2019

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in Support of House Bill 2066.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce is constantly seeking to insure a regulatory climate in Kansas that promotes a healthy business environment and instills regulatory certainty. Burdensome and unnecessary state regulations not only stifles business growth, in this case, it also restricts healthcare professionals from practicing to their full scope of training and certification and results in limiting access to affordable, high quality healthcare for all Kansans.

Eliminating restrictions on APRNs would result in an annual cost savings of over 11% in emergency department use for conditions that could have otherwise been treated in an outpatient facility. 22 States already allow for full practice authority of APRNs. This puts Kansas at a competitive disadvantage in drawing this particular group of medical professionals to our State when we are already struggling with a shortage of physicians.

The Kansas Chamber's members have made encouraging the most appropriate, least restrictive method of regulation for occupational licensing an important component of our 2019 Legislative Agenda. HB2066 aims to allow dedicated, highly trained medical professionals to practice to the scope for which they are trained and certified, while helping address both the professional shortage and rising cost of healthcare.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB2066 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.