

February 8,

Madame Chair and Members of the House of Health & Human Services Committee:

As a registered nurse for 29 years and practicing as a pediatric nurse practitioner for the last 23 years, I am here testifying on my behalf in support of HB 2066.

Currently 1 in 5 people do not have access to health care providers, which is even more critical in rural areas. In 2001, the Institute of Medicine released a report regarding the need to transform US health care systems and in order to achieve this, nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.

Twenty-three states have enacted full practice authority including our border states of Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa. Many studies have shown definitive results demonstrating compatible quality outcomes including health status, satisfaction and use of specialist when comparing APRNs in states with full practice authority to states with restrictions and to physician counterparts.

Studies have demonstrated that APRNs are competent health care providers that deliver safe quality of care. HB 2066 allows APRNs to practice to the full extent of their education, training, licensure and certification. Passing this bill would increase the numbers of APRNs and provide access to care for Kansans, particularly those in rural areas. Without this, their knowledge, skills and expertise are being wasted.

It is my hope that both the Kansas House and Senate recognize the importance and necessity of this bill in allowing APRNs to utilize their full scope of practice to improve the health of Kansans.

Sincerely,

Gina Weddle, DNP, RN, CPNP AC/PC