

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2066 Updating APRN Statutes  
House Health & Human Services Committee  
4 Feb 2019

Chairman Landwehr and Committee Members,

My name is Kyanna Kuntz. I live in Junction City, Kansas and work at Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

I write this letter urging you to support HB 2066, Updating Certain Requirements Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

I graduated with a Master's Degree from the University of Kansas School of Nursing in 2004. I am a Certified Nurse-Midwife, a women's health Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). I worked in private practice in Junction City, Kansas with a supportive OB/GYN Physician from 2005-2007. I am passionate about caring for military mothers and their families. In 2007 I went to work for the Department of Defense at Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, Kansas.

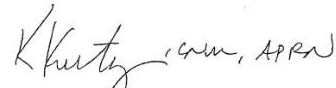
I work in the ideal setting, practicing full-scope Women's Healthcare and Midwifery. I work in the clinic performing annual women's health exams, pap smears, prescribing birth control, treating women's primary care needs, treating infections such as STIs as well as providing prenatal care, postpartum care, Centering Pregnancy group prenatal care and lactation support. I also have full-scope privileges in the inpatient Labor & Delivery Unit delivering babies and assisting physicians with cesarean section surgeries. The OB/GYN Physicians I work with are very supportive and acknowledge the contributions I make to women's healthcare. They are available for consultation, collaboration and referral of high-risk patients when needed. This is how APRNs provide care in 22 other states including the District of Columbia, Veterans Administration, Department of Defense and Bureau of Indian Affairs. This is how APRNs should provide care in the entire State of Kansas.

HB 2066 allows APRNs to practice to the full extent of their education and training. It removes the requirement for physician written protocols which are often viewed as "cookbooks" for healthcare. It requires all Kansas APRNs to have national certification and carry malpractice insurance. The removal of practice restrictions in other states has increased the number of APRNs which has improved access to primary healthcare and mental healthcare services for Medicare, Medicaid, underserved and rural area patients. Currently, Kansas is only meeting 50% of primary care need and 43% of mental healthcare need in health professional shortage areas. Numerous studies over the past 20 years provide evidence of quality care & lower health care costs when APRNs are utilized to the full extent of their education and training.

I ask for your support of HB 2066. Kansans will benefit by having more Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who can provide easy access to healthcare.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very Respectfully,



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