

Testimony in Support of HB 2066 Updating APRN Statutes
House Health and Human Services Committee
February 11, 2019

Chairman Landwehr and members of the Health and Human Service Committee:

I have been an Advanced Practice Nurse for 27 years. I have worked in different areas of expertise. For the last 22 years, I have been the Nurse Practitioner for the Newborn Nursery. I see my own patients. I do procedures such as circumcisions (over 7000) and frenotomies (clipping skin under tongue so babies can breastfeed). I have worked with my physician colleagues very closely over these years. I function independently but in collaboration with Pediatricians. I have never been sued. I would never work on an island by myself. I will never speak ill will of my physician partners. I do find it a waste however, to have to have all of my notes co-signed. I find it even more bothersome to have to have a piece of paper signed yearly stating that I am able to do what I do daily without having this paper (Collaborative Practice Agreement) signed. Most Nurse Practitioner function as I do. We work with our physician partners. We do not and have no intention to work alone. Some of us care for patients in remote areas that have no other providers. We do what we do with years of experience and education behind our names. I will never compare myself to someone with an MD nor DO or pharmacist for that matter. I have my own degree, a doctorate in Nursing Practice. I am not a mid-level provider. I am a very good Nurse Practitioner just as a dentist is not a mid-level MD. We are different tracks of health care. We all serve a purpose. We all function to a high level of accountability and are held to this standard. I find it humbling that I am reimburse at 75% of Medicaid in Kansas on a procedure that if I fail to provide the best outcome, I get sued at 100%. If we the Nurse Practitioner community can show through evidence, which is overwhelming , that we can do our jobs safe and efficient, why can't the state of Kansas acknowledge this in the elimination of a piece of paper (Collaborative Practice Agreement)?

Please consider answering the call of the people for safe, efficient and cost effective health care by sponsoring HB 2066.

Respectfully,

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Newborn Nursery Nurse Practitioner

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