

Dear Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr,

My name is Jamey Degner and I am practicing physician in Wichita, Kansas and I am writing to you in support of HB 2295, the Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensure Act.

I have called Kansas my home my entire life, and have raised my family here, including my daughter Courtney Degner. Back in 2014 Courtney graduated with her Master of Science in Anesthesia to become a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA). Unfortunately, she was forced to pursue her career in another state instead of having the option to stay close to family. Under the current law, nobody in her profession can work in Kansas and that needs to change. CAAs who call Kansas home are leaving to the surrounding states where they can work such as Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.

CAAs are highly skilled health professionals who work under the direction of a physician anesthesiologist to implement anesthesia care plans. CAAs work exclusively within the Anesthesia Care Team model as described by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The model provides safe, efficient, and cost-effective practice. CAAs are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care as well as advance patient monitoring techniques.

As a practicing physician in Kansas, I am well aware of our state's shortage of medical providers and the tremendous value of safe physician extenders. For these reasons, I fully support the practice of CAAs in Kansas and I strongly encourage you to support HB 2295. Not only would passing HB 2295 expand access to quality anesthesia services to all of Kansas, it would give my daughter the opportunity to live back in Kansas closer to her family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J C Degner MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jamey Degner, MD  
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