

TESTIMONY OF RACHEL LUPTAK BAYER, CAA  
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
PROPONENT REGARDING HB 2295  
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Rachel Luptak Bayer, and I am a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant currently practicing at Children's Mercy Hospital in Missouri. As a current resident of the state of Kansas, and as a practitioner in a group that covers hospitals in both Kansas and Missouri, I am writing to you in full support of CAA licensure in Kansas. I believe that CAAs bring an abundance of knowledge, skill and competence to the anesthesia care model, and would only improve patient care in the state of Kansas.

Having lived in both Missouri and Kansas, I am proud to call the Midwest my home. Unfortunately, the limitation of CAA practice in Kansas has required me to commute across the state line, to a hospital in Missouri. Children's Mercy Hospital has locations in both states, which further divides the CRNA and AA professions, limiting scope of practice based solely on location and not ability. As a resident of Kansas, it would seem appropriate that tax dollars are returned to the state, but as an employee in Missouri, that is not the current situation.

The state of Missouri has provided both education and employment opportunities for me and many CAAs. I am a proud alumna of the Master of Science in Anesthesia program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and feel privileged to provide quality care to children living in both Kansas and Missouri. The anesthesia care team model is comprised of physicians and midlevel providers, all working toward the common goal of providing safe and effective medical care. Working under the direct supervision of a physician anesthesiologist is an important safety measure in patient health, ensuring the highest level of medical care and expertise.

I have worked alongside CRNAs and CAAs, and it is evident that medical practice flourishes with the coordination of a variety of professionals working toward a common goal. Just as Kansas has seen with the integration of nurse practitioners and physician assistants, our state can only improve access to quality health care with the licensure of certified anesthesiologist assistants. House Bill 2295 solidifies this advancement and is beneficial for both healthcare recipients and providers across the state.

Thank you for your acknowledgement of the Anesthesiologist Assistant profession, and for your consideration of advancing licensure in our state. The residents of Kansas deserve quality health care, and the addition of CAAs to the anesthesia care team is important to furthering this cause. As a proud Kansan, it would be an honor and privilege to practice in the state I call home.

Please contact me with any questions you may have, or clarifications you need.

Sincerely,

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