



February 18, 2019

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Vicki Whitaker, KAOM Executive Director

Subj: Neutral Testimony on to HB 2295 – providing for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants (AA).

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM), founded in 1913, represents osteopathic physicians and the osteopathic profession in Kansas. At the direction of KAOM members, the association is providing comments on to HB 2295 which would provide for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.

It is KAOM's understanding that physician assistants are seeking licensure in the role as anesthesiologist assistants to formalize their role and to be able to bill insurance for their services. Physician assistants in Kansas can already function in this role under the direction of a physician. With licensure, an AA would have to follow the rules, regulations and licensure paths defined by the Board of Healing Arts to practice in this specialized area. The rules and regulations will specify a course of education or military training and experience in anesthesia in order to be considered for licensure. This would include continuing education in anesthesiology subject areas.

The AA is not seeking with this bill to practice independently but will maintain a collaborative practice agreement with a supervising physician. An AA could not be supervised by a CRNA as only those actively engaged in the practice of the healing arts in Kansas may supervise them. The supervising anesthesiology physician would be allowed to supervise four AAs – and must be onsite or immediately available.

KAOM appreciates the opportunity to present neutral testimony for the Committee.