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**STATEMENT OF BRAD SMOOT**  
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**KANSAS ACADEMY OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS**  
**SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
**REGARDING 2019 SENATE BILL 223**  
March 18, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to briefly offer some comments and possible amendments to SB 223 for your consideration. Kansas anesthesiologists and our group of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AA's) have been seeking licensure of AA's in Kansas for three years. We have gone through the credentialing process required by the Legislature and after hours of hearings before the KDHE committee, licensure of AA's was recommended by the committee and approved by the KDHE Secretary.

During the hearings last year and this, there seemed to be some apprehension among lawmakers about the role of AA's in the delivery of anesthesia care. As you know, AA's can ONLY work under the supervision of a licensed physician anesthesiologist. Yet lawmakers are being told that licensure of AA's will somehow displace or interfere with the practice of CRNA's in our rural areas. In order to make it abundantly clear that AA's will not be competing in rural areas of the state, we have attached a draft amendment that limits where AA's may practice to those counties where licensed anesthesiologists currently practice. Those counties are listed in the amendment and the list can, of course, be increased or decreased by the Legislature. We have also crafted a process by which a hospital or medical facility in a county that is not listed can be added by KDHE should an anesthesiologist practice in that county in the future.

Opponents of AA licensing have also expressed concern about AA's participating in clinical rotations in anesthesia training programs that could be utilized by CRNA's. To address this concern, we are proposing a three-year ban on AA's participating in anesthesia rotations available in the state of Kansas.

These amendments are offered only to assist the Legislature. We continue to believe that there is a significant need for AA services in Kansas, that practicing anesthesiologists, hospitals and medical facilities will benefit from AA licensing, that CRNA's will not be harmed and that Kansas patients will be well served by the skills, training and dedication of Anesthesiologists Assistants. Thank you for consideration of our views.