

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chairman Suellentrop and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

I am writing you to express my support of the licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in the State of Kansas. I have had the good fortune to work with Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in various roles for the past ten years.

From 2012-2014 I served on the Curriculum Committee of the UMKC Master of Anesthesia program, providing physician oversight and input into their program of instruction. I can attest to the fact that the quality and content of their instructional program is very high.

I also worked closely with Melanie Guthrie, CAA to develop simulation-based education sessions in which the UMKC Anesthesiology Residents worked directly with the Anesthesiologist Assistant students. In those high-fidelity simulation scenarios, the residents and AA students trained together to manage critical events. This kind of inter-professional team training is surprisingly rare in healthcare education, yet it is crucial to the development of the next generation of physicians and non-physician providers.

Because I practice anesthesiology in Kansas, I can't usually work with CAAs. Recently, however, I had the opportunity to serve as part of the Lenexa, Kansas-based Medical Missions Foundation. We traveled to Gulu, Uganda to perform 95 surgical cases ranging from simple hernia operations to the removal of large thyroid goiters. Our Anesthesia Care Team consisted of three nurse anesthetists, myself, and Ty Townsend, CAA. The mission was a huge success and every patient received excellent anesthesia care. Mr. Townsend and the three CRNAs worked very hard to provide safe, comfortable anesthesia under difficult conditions. I am extremely proud of our performance and cannot thank them enough!

In closing, I am asking that you allow licensure of Anesthesiologist Assistants in the State of Kansas. CAAs have proven to be highly-performing members of the Anesthesia Care Team in Missouri and other states. We have a shortage of qualified anesthesia providers in Kansas, and that situation appears likely to worsen in the coming years unless we act now. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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