

# ***Kansas Academy of Physician Associates***

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## **Remarks Concerning House Bill No. 2358 House Committee on Federal and State Affairs January 30, 2024**

Dear Chairman Carpenter and Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

The Kansas Academy of Physician Associates (KAPA) appears today in support of the underlying legislation, but we do have a concern regarding language used in the bill.

Last year this committee helped clean up some old and inconsistent language regarding Physician Assistants and this year we have another opportunity.

The measure relates to an important duty for a healthcare provider and we ask for your consideration in applying the same respect to the professionals carrying out that duty.

The word “mid-level” can be interpreted to belittle the value of importance of someone or something.

In patient care, it can bring the wrong judgment on the quality of care that an NP or a PA provides and could unintentionally imply substandard care. We know that is not the intention, by if we use the term mid-level, what is a low-level practitioner? Are physicians, coroners, their deputies and special deputies considered high-level practitioners?

We ask that you specifically spell out the providers as defined in KSA 65-1626 and have attached an amendment to do so.

If you want to use the term mid-level as drafted the referenced statute, KSA 65-1626 subsection (ss) should be amended to reflect current language in the physician assistant licensure act (KSA 65-28a01 et seq) which now uses the term responsible physician, not supervising physician.

Thanks for your consideration on this matter of importance to Physician Associates in Kansas and we ask for your support of our proposed amendment to House Bill No. 2358.

Sincerely

Doug Smith  
Executive Director

**Kansas Academy of Physician Associates  
House Bill No. 2358  
Amendment**

On page on lines 24 and 25

(b) (1) The funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes custody of a dead body shall file the death certificate. Such person shall obtain the personal data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available and shall obtain the medical certification of cause of death from the *a physician, coroner, deputy coroner, special deputy coroner or a mid-level practitioner as defined in K.S.A. 65-1626, and amendments thereto*, , **certified nurse-midwife engaging in the independent practice of midwifery under the independent practice of midwifery act, advanced practice registered nurse issued a license pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1131, and amendments thereto, who has authority to prescribe drugs under K.S.A. 65-1130, and amendments thereto, or physician assistant licensed pursuant to the physician assistant licensure act who has authority to prescribe drugs pursuant to a written agreement with a responsible physician under K.S.A. 65-28a08, and amendments thereto**, *who was* last in attendance prior to burial.

Amendment to KSA 65-1626 (ss)

(ss) "Mid-level practitioner" means a certified nurse-midwife engaging in the independent practice of midwifery under the independent practice of midwifery act, an advanced practice registered nurse issued a license pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1131, and amendments thereto, who has authority to prescribe drugs under K.S.A. 65-1130, and amendments thereto, or a physician assistant licensed pursuant to the physician assistant licensure act who has authority to prescribe drugs pursuant to a written agreement with a ~~supervising~~ **responsible** physician under K.S.A. 65-28a08, and amendments thereto.