

PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HB2358

To the House,

I would very much like Pawnee Valley Community Hospital's concerns be shared related to APRN's pronouncing death, especially in rural America.

At Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, only physicians are allowed to pronounce death. Our current medical staff is comprised of:

- 1 full-time family medicine physician,
- 1 private practice family medicine physician with admitting privileges, etc.
- 2 full-time family medicine APRNs
- 1 part-time family medicine APRN
- 1 emergency medicine physician serving as our emergency medicine medical director who works shifts in our emergency department as needed
- 3 full-time emergency department PAs
- 2 part-time PAs
- 2 PRN emergency department APRNs

We are searching for additional family medicine physicians, yet this task is very difficult as you know-especially in rural areas. With that noted, it is burdensome for 2 physicians to be on-call 24-7 for pronouncing death. This burden adds to the difficulty of retaining physicians. Our 2 physicians work very hard to meet the community's needs while taking pride in serving our community. It would be very helpful to lessen the physicians' workload/stress and allow the APRNs to pronounce death. Our organization has already initiated conversations regarding policy changes to allow PAs to pronounce death as allowed by the Board of Healing Arts.

Our APRNs are required to have advanced educational certifications related to running code blues and/or dealing with medical emergencies. These APRNs function at a very high capacity, therefore it is concerning that they are not allowed to pronounce death. My question is: If they can save a life, why is it they cannot pronounce death?

I hope that legislation will understand that it is essential to rural healthcare that pronouncing death be added to the APRN scope of practice as rural America continues to lack physician coverage.

Thank you very much,

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