

The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians

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To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Senator Beverly Gossage, Chair

From: Carol Moreland, MSN, RN
Executive Administrator
Kansas State Board of Nursing

Subject: SB 112

Position: **Proponent (Written)**

The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) provides this written testimony in support of SB 112 that concerns registered nurse anesthetists; authorizing independent practice and the prescribing of drugs; amending K.S.A. 65-1165. The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians. KSBN regulates registered nurse anesthetists and there are currently 1,256 licensed registered nurse anesthetists in Kansas.

SB112, if passed would change the practice of registered nurse anesthetists (RNAs). They could practice as an independent advanced practice registered nurse to the full extent of the licensee's education and qualifications. They could prescribe, procure, select, order, and administer any drug consistent with such licensee's education and qualifications.

Registered nurse anesthetists obtain specialized education for their role. RNA educational programs in Kansas prepare the student for graduation with a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. Requirements for admission include licensure as a Registered Nurse, certification in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support. CCRN certification, a specialized certification for nurses who provide care to acutely/chronically ill patients, is preferred. The applicant must have a minimum of 1-year full-time practice in a critical care unit and have a bachelor's degree.

RNA programs consist of 36 months of didactic and clinical education to assist the student to acquire the knowledge, skills and competence required for their role. The classroom instruction includes courses in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, and pharmacology. The clinical education includes a variety of anesthesia techniques and procedures for all types of surgery and obstetrics. Types of anesthesia included in clinical include general, regional and pain management. Clinicals include over 1000 anesthetic cases with over 2050 hours of direct anesthesia. Special cases include geriatric, pediatric (2 – 12 years), pediatric (<2 years), neonatal (<4 weeks), trauma, obstetrics, and pain management. Anatomic categories included in clinical include intra-abdominal, intracranial (open and closed), oropharyngeal, intrathoracic, open heart (with and without cardiopulmonary bypass), closed heart, intrathoracic (lung and other), and neck.

After graduation from the RNA program, the graduate must become nationally certified through the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA). The purpose of the National Certification Examination is to assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for entry-level nurse anesthesia practitioners. NBCRNA credentialing assures the public that the certified registered nurse anesthetist has met objective, predetermined qualifications to provide nurse anesthesia services. Each RNA who fulfills the requirements for certification and continued professional certification by NBCRNA may use the initials “CRNA” after their name. CRNA stand for certified registered nurse anesthetist. The continued professional certification (CPC) program covers eight years, which includes two four-year compliance cycles. Each four-year cycle has a specific set of requirements that include Class A continuing education, Class B professional development activities, core modules and CPC assessment. This CPC assessment assesses the critical core knowledge needed to practice the art and science of nurse anesthesia.

RNAs have the specialized knowledge, skills, and competency to practice independently to the extent of their education and qualifications. They have the education and qualifications to prescribe, procure, select, order, and administer any drug consistent with their role. The Kansas State Board of Nursing supports SB 112 and encourages passage of the bill.