



**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 112
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to support Senate Bill 112, which authorizes independent practice registered nurse anesthetists.

Just like last year's S Sub for HB 2249 allowing for the independent practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, SB 112 would remove government-imposed barriers that increase the regulatory burden and restrict trained health care professionals from performing their work to the full extent of their training. Health care, like all other industries, faces a workforce shortage. Those challenges are made worse by unnecessary state laws and regulations restricting access to affordable, high quality health care for Kansans.

Today, CRNA's serve as the sole anesthesia provider in a majority of Kansas counties and according to their industry, account for 80% of anesthesia cases in our state. Whether we are talking about APRN's, dentists or CRNA's, we should ensure that state law does its job to protect patients without limiting competition in the marketplace. Those two philosophies can coexist and are not mutually exclusive.

We would encourage this committee to continue evaluating state policies and removing government created, regulatory barriers where possible. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 112, and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.