

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

February 16, 2023

Chairman Gossage, and members of the Health Committee:

My name is Jeremy Salsbury and I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) in Wichita, KS and Vice President of the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KANA). I am writing in favor of SB 112 Legislation.

I was born and raised and educated in Kansas. I attended Newman University to obtain my Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia in 2008. I have practiced in Kansas during my career working in Level 1 Trauma Centers, Specialty Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, as well as in Dental Offices. Additionally, I served over 20 years in the United States Army before retiring from the Army Reserve in 2016. During my time in the Army I deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan where I served as the primary anesthesia provider on Forward Surgical Teams. Currently, I am of the co-owner of two anesthesia businesses.

In my primary anesthesia practice our group provides anesthesia services for over 100 dentists across South Central Kansas in their own office settings. We have been in business for over 20 years and care for approximately 3,600 patients per year in dental office settings. Of those patients, approximately 75% are insured by one of the three Kansas MCO's. Providing these services in the office setting when appropriate helps keep patients from needing to go to the hospital or surgery center. Last year alone, our services saved Kansas taxpayers \$5.4 million.

Over the past several years medication and supply costs have gone up significantly. Some medications have gone up in cost over 100%. Our group spends approximately \$90,000 annually for medications and supplies. In order for our group to procure the appropriate supplies to provide our services we are required to order from local pharmacies and multiple national vendors. This is often complicated by shortages Nationwide. To order these medications we are required to use the dentists DEA numbers. As I stated before, we work with over 100 dentists. That means that there are over 100 DEA numbers for us to keep track of when ordering. Currently, Kansas CRNAs do not have the legal right to obtain a DEA number. This complicates logistics and creates many layers of documents we are required to file with the suppliers on a yearly basis. Enacting SB 112 would allow the CRNAs of my group to obtain their own DEA certificates and procure our supplies.

Another consideration for you is have these medications are managed and controlled. Our group works closely with our suppliers to help ensure that we are managing our stock well. Although these medications are secured at the dentists' office, our CRNAs are the ones managing the supply and we are also the providers with the knowledge to safely administer these medications. If we are the provider that is managing and administering these medications it just makes sense that we should also legally be able to obtain a DEA number and procure these same medications ourselves. Enacting SB 112 would help ensure improved accountability of these medications.

By enacting SB 112, procurement of medications for anesthesia in dental offices will be more efficient and more accountable. Furthermore, with continued growth of the Kansas Medicaid Program, our services will continue to be a cost savings to Kansas taxpayers.

Respectfully,

Jeremy M. Salsbury, CRNA, MSN

MAJ (Retired) U.S. Army Reserve

Vice President, Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists