

## Testimony in support of SB 112

16 Feb 2023

To Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

My name is Kyle Nevills. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). I am writing to ask you to support SB 112. I was born and raised in Kansas and attended the University of Kansas Nurse Anesthesia program and graduated in 1992 with my master's degree. I have spent the majority of my 30-year career practicing Nurse Anesthesia in Kansas (Garden City and Scott City).

I have had an interest in Pain Management since the start of my career. I obtained my Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) in 2012 and completed a one-year fellowship in Pain Management thru the University of South Florida in 2018. Despite loving living and practicing in Kansas, I left the state in 2019 because I grew frustrated with the outdated and cumbersome nurse practice act which did not allow me to practice to the top of my training.

Currently in Kansas, CRNAs are the **only APRN** category which do not have independent practice and the ability to prescribe medications. This means that CRNAs must have an order from a physician or dentist to perform an anesthetic or a pain management procedure. A CRNA may administer controlled substances, but cannot be the professional that orders the controlled substances because we are not allowed prescriptive authority. We are not able to obtain a DEA number which is required to order the medications we administer.

This is especially burdensome to CRNAs who practice in pain management and those CRNAs that provide sedation for dental offices. These CRNAs must work with the dentists and their offices to order the medications that they administer to patients. One of our CRNA groups works with over 100 dentists and has to constantly keep track of their DEA numbers to order medications for their offices. The nursing statues relating to CRNAs need to be modernized to reflect what CRNAs in Kansas do every day to provide excellent anesthesia and pain management services to the citizens of Kansas.

I chose to leave Kansas and move to New Hampshire to practice pain management. I chose New Hampshire because their nurse practice act allows **all APRNs** independent practice and the ability to prescribe medications without any physician involvement. The boards of Nursing and Medicine are separate but equal. I practice at a 25-bed critical access hospital in Northern New Hampshire. I am one of three APRNs (2 CRNAs and 1 Nurse practitioner) that comprise the pain management department. We do not have a physician in the department. We see and diagnose and order testing and perform pain management procedures for our patients and prescribe any needed medication.

I believe if Kansas does not update and modify the current nurse practice act, more CRNAs will leave the state and relocate to states where they can practice to the full extent of their training as I did.

I urge you to support SB 112,

Respectfully,

Dr. Kyle Nevills DNP CRNA NSPM-C