



Testimony re: SB 112
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Presented by Laurel Short
Kansas Advance Practice Nurse (KAPN) Association
February 14, 2023

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurel Short, and I am the president of the Kansas Advance Practice Nurse Association (KAPN). I have been a nurse practitioner caring for Kansas residents for over 12 years. Thank you for allowing us to submit written testimony on this important issue.

This legislation will allow certified nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) to work to the full extent of their education and training. Currently in the state of Kansas, CRNAs are not permitted to write prescriptions. This is limiting access to care for individuals in our state.

For example, if a patient is seen by a CRNA in a dental practice, the CRNA is unable to write a prescription for the appropriate antibiotic or pain medication. In addition, if a CRNA works in a dental office a responsibility of their role is to administer sedation for dental procedures. This is often needed for children and adults to safely undergo dental procedures. Currently CRNAs in Kansas are unable to order medication from suppliers, because they are unable to obtain a DEA license. A DEA license is needed to order and prescribe controlled substances. Therefore the CRNA must have a dentist, medical doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant order these medications and write prescriptions.

The passage of SB 112 will improve access to healthcare and allow CRNAs to practice within the full extent of their education, training, and certification. This legislation removes unnecessary regulation while maintaining public safety and quality health outcomes. It will align with legislation passed in 2022 that has provided full practice authority for advance practice nurses in Kansas.

In 2020, the Federal Trade Commission supported full practice authority for advance practice nurses in Kansas. Their research shows independent prescribing authority allows improved access to care, decreases healthcare costs, and expands innovation for the Kansas health delivery system. Multiple studies across the United States show that access to healthcare increases for both rural and urban areas when independent prescribing authority is provided.

We ask that you support SB 112 to optimize access to quality, comprehensive healthcare for Kansans by providing prescribing rights to CRNAs. Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony.

Respectfully,

Laurel Short, DNP, FNP-C, AQH
President, Kansas Advance Practice Nurses (KAPN)