



To: House Health and Human Services

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: February 17, 2022

Subject: HB 2368 Establishing Licensure of Anesthesiology Assistants

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to offer comments regarding licensure of anesthesiology assistants. The Kansas Medical Society, which represents physicians of all specialties from across the state supports policy that is consistent with our mission of ensuring access to high quality care delivered by a physician-lead team for Kansas patients.

We support an integrated, team-based approach to health care delivery that includes the array of advanced practice providers, trained in varying models for a comprehensive approach to health care delivery. For most physicians, whether they practice general surgery or family medicine, their team includes other physicians, nurses, and physician assistants skilled in their specialty.

KMS has consistently supported efforts to ensure that where delivery overlaps into the practice of medicine, professionals work in collaboration or under the supervision of a physician.

Anesthesiologist assistants work under the direct supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist and must meet educational and training requirements equivalent to physician assistants. Such a structure in no way limits the scope or practice of other anesthesia providers. AAs cannot work off-site or for a physician that does not practice anesthesiology.

KSA 65-28,127 stipulates that physicians may delegate medical acts to nonphysicians and those acts are the responsibility of the delegating physician. While this allows physicians to utilize professionals such as AAs, surgical technicians and medical technicians that are not licensed, it does not allow any regulatory agency to directly regulate those individuals. Whether or not a profession is licensed is the purview of the legislature. We have supported efforts to see AAs licensed and believe it would draw more AAs to practice in Kansas without compromising quality. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.