

Dear Kansas State Legislature,

My name is Daniel Wikiera, I'm a lifelong Kansas City metro resident, and I'm writing to you in support of HB 2368. Like most of the general public I was unaware of the role of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant until I applied to graduate school at the University of Missouri- Kansas City. Now, I'm three months out from graduating and starting a job at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. Here are a few facts about the position:

- Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) are highly skilled, highly trained health professionals who work under the medical direction of a Physician Anesthesiologist to provide safe anesthesia care

- In the Anesthesia Care Team model, CAAs and nurse anesthetists share identical patient care responsibilities, both working under the medical direction of Physician Anesthesiologists

- CAA Master's Degree programs are highly competitive, and require a college degree completed with all premedical coursework prerequisites met

- CAAs may practice in 21 states and the District of Columbia (including your neighbors: Colorado, Oklahoma, and Missouri)

Prior to graduate school, I owned and operated a small business in Overland Park, Kansas for over five years. Ask any business owner and they will tell you one of their top challenges is hiring a skilled workforce. Ask anyone in the medical field and they will tell you anesthesia providers are in high demand, and Kansas is no exception. Ask anyone about to undergo surgery if they want anesthesia care during the procedure, and they will say 'absolutely'. It's a no-brainer for Kansas to join the growing list of states who are providing licensure to CAAs, and expand access to quality anesthesia service to all Kansans. Providing licensure to CAAs in Kansas will not displace nurse anesthetists or physician anesthesiologists, it simply provides a larger pool of candidates capable of providing such important care for your constituents. Please vote to approve HB 2368.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel Wikiera". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Daniel Wikiera