

February 10, 2025

House Health Committee
Kansas State Legislature
To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly support the licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in Kansas. As a physician anesthesiologist with extensive experience working alongside CAAs, I can attest to their high level of competency, professionalism, and commitment to patient safety. Their role in the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) ensures high-quality, team-based anesthesia care. I have requested CAAs to treat my family members.

CAAs are rigorously trained and proficient in managing diverse patient populations, including critically ill individuals. States like Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado successfully utilize CAAs, improving access to anesthesia services. Kansas should follow suit.

Importantly, CAAs do not seek independent practice but work under anesthesiologist supervision. Their integration complements, rather than replaces, other anesthesia providers, ensuring a well-staffed workforce. Facilities like Saint Luke's Hospital and Liberty Hospital demonstrate that CAAs and CRNAs can work collaboratively.

To meet the growing demand for anesthesia services, Kansas must license CAAs. I urge the committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,
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