

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives,

I am writing to you as a concerned anesthesiologist who cares for pediatric patients on a daily basis. I lived in Kansas for a major part of my life and currently work at an institution that gives me the privilege to work with patients from Kansas. I am in support of HB 2368 because it maintains the gold standard of care for patients which is physician anesthesiologist direction of perioperative anesthesia care. I have had the opportunity to work with both CRNA's and CAA's on a daily basis. Because of this experience with both groups of providers I feel that I can speak to the similarities of their skill and major advantages of a care model that involves physician supervision and direction of care for our patients. From a logistical stand point I work at hospital system that straggles the state line in Kansas City. With the current restrictions in place, our anesthesia assistants are unable to go to our Kansas campus and creates inefficiencies in our workflow. This really is just a distraction to our day to day staffing arrangements and only adds inefficiency and no benefit (and potentially worse care) to our patients.

Most importantly though, I believe that the team model with physician supervision and direction is the safest way to care for our patients. In this arrangement we are able to foster working relationships with each other and viewing care of a patient as a team effort avoids the dangers that come with ego and solo care that can stem from a nurse anesthetist. My experience with both CRNAs and CAAs has led me to believe that the safety of the children at our hospital is equal when I am paired with individuals with training backgrounds with both certifications and perhaps is better with CAA's because I know that they are definitely on the same team as me. To be clear, at the end of the day, I have seen zero difference in the care for patients when a CRNA or a CAA are caring for patients and signing this bill will improve safety and care for the patients in Kansas.

Regards,  
Kacy Chau MD