

Chairman Carpenter and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2368.

My name is Olivia Woodruff. I am a full-time Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) at St. Luke's Hospital. I graduated from UMKC School of Medicine Master of Science in Anesthesia program in May 2022. I have been employed by St. Luke's Physician's Group since July 2022. I was born and raised a Kansas Citian. I am the current secretary for the Kansas Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (KSAAA).

As a CAA, I work directly under the medical direction of a licensed physician anesthesiologist in the anesthesia care team (ACT). Through this model of care, anesthesia services are provided safely to all of our patients in many departments such as surgery, interventional radiology, gastroenterology, and obstetrics. It is not the desire of CAAs to practice independently of an anesthesiologist, as the ACT has proven to be a safe and effective way to provide anesthesia services. This is especially true for the critically ill patients we have the opportunity to take care of at places like St. Luke's Hospital. In addition to working in Level 1 trauma centers, CAAs are equipped to provide anesthesia care in outpatient surgical centers under the medical direction of a licensed physician anesthesiologist.

The CAA profession was established due to a shortage of anesthesia providers. In the 50+ years of CAAs practicing, the profession has expanded to a total of 19 states and Washington DC. Neighboring states of Kansas such as Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado have had practicing CAAs for over 20, 15, and 10 years, respectively. The demand of anesthesia providers across the USA is no secret. Kansas is not omitted from this need. In allowing CAAs practicing rights in Kansas, we will be expanding anesthesia services to Kansans and allow CAAs and CRNAs to work alongside each other and provide the safest care for our patients. This is not a novel idea, as it already happens at St. Luke's Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospital, Liberty Hospital, and hospitals all across the country. We have no intentions to replace or disrupt the work of CRNAs, rather we are asking for a chance to expand access and provide safe and effective anesthesia services to Kansans.

Thank you for taking the time to read my support of HB 2368. This is an important step in gaining practicing rights for CAAs in the state of Kansas. Many of my colleagues and I would be appreciative to have the opportunity to help expand anesthesia services to Kansans.

Sincerely,

Olivia Woodruff
oliviawoodruff3@gmail.com
816-806-3477