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Representative Will Carpenter
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
District 75, GOP, El Dorado

Greetings Chairman Carpenter and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

This written testimony is in **SUPPORT** of **HB 2368**, Licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants which I strongly urge the HHS Committee to **SUPPORT**.

CAA's have provided exceptional care as key members of the Anesthesia Care Team for over 50 years including over 20 years in Missouri with over 160 licensed providers and three accredited CAA training programs; 15 years in Oklahoma and 10 years in Colorado where there are more than 150 of CAAs in practice and two CAA training programs. The surrounding states have seen the quality and made the investment in the healthcare for their citizens. States that have added CAAs to their list of licensed providers have historically seen an increase in all anesthesia providers dispelling concerns of displaced providers while showing an increase in the quality of applicants for groups to hire from.

I am the 4th generation of my family to call Kansas home. I am a high school and college graduate from Kansas. I am an active duty Gulf War Veteran before spending numerous years in the reserves drilling in Kansas. I am a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant with 24 years of experience in all areas of anesthesia including cardiac, neuro, trauma. I have been involved in CAA education for 23 of those years and currently a Program Director for a highly regarded CAA educational program. Every year I have applicants from Kansas with a strong desire to return home to work upon graduation. All of us would like the opportunity to utilize our unique skills and training for the betterment of Kansas.

The citizens of Kansas deserve the highest quality of anesthesia care. Your vote of **SUPPORT** for **HB 2368** allows healthcare systems across the state of Kansas to hire from a wider pool of highly qualified applicants, ensuring they are receiving exceptional care. Kansans deserve the best.