

March 6, 2025

Chair Carpenter, Vice Chair Bryce, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of Senate Bill 67** which will increase access to safe and quality services provided by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in Kansas. Removing these barriers will bring Kansas closer to the practice environment the majority of the country follows that eliminates unnecessary regulations, aligns with an evidence-based model for CRNA regulation, and provides patients with greater access to providers they know and trust.

Reducing Unnecessary Regulations

Kansas lawmakers have a notable history of identifying and acting to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) allows states to opt out of physician supervision restrictions for Medicare and Medicaid patients, an action Kansas took over 20 years ago. Despite this, remaining barriers exist in Kansas that create barriers to care. Current law bars CRNAs from prescribing durable medical equipment and prescribe, procure, and administer drugs for their patients which are within the CRNA education and qualifications. Senate Bill 67 would remove these barriers and result in increased access to care for patients across the state.

Alignment with the APRN Consensus Model

Granting prescriptive authority to CRNAs also aligns with the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Consensus Model, a nationally recognized framework that establishes uniform practice standards for APRNs, including CRNAs. The Kansas Legislature made significant progress toward alignment in 2022 by modernizing APRN laws to remove barriers for certified nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse-midwives. The APRN Consensus Model is an evidence-based model proven to improve access to care, standardize regulation and practice across states, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens—all of which align with the Kansas legislature's goal of minimizing government interference in the healthcare market while ensuring high-quality patient care.

Increasing Access

CRNAs, who are highly trained in anesthesia care, are providing the vast majority of anesthesia services in rural areas across the country. In many rural Kansas communities, hospitals and surgical centers rely on CRNAs to deliver safe and expert quality anesthesia services. CRNAs are more often than not the only anesthesia providers in these areas. Current statutes and regulations in Kansas make the delivery of this expert care more difficult to access than necessary. Senate Bill 67 would enable more patients to receive care from CRNAs by enabling them to prescribe necessary drugs and grant citizens across the state more timely access to healthcare.

Strengthening Free-Market Competition

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has repeatedly stated that restrictive scope-of-practice laws limit competition, drive up healthcare costs, and reduce patient choice. In a true free-market system, providers should be allowed to practice to the full extent of their education and training. “The FTC staff has consistently urged state legislators to avoid imposing restrictions on APRN scope of practice unless those restrictions are necessary to address well-founded patient safety concerns. Based on substantial evidence and experience, expert bodies have concluded that APRNs *[sic]* are safe and effective as independent providers of many health care services within the scope of their training, licensure, certification, and current practice.”¹ CRNAs have the education and training to prescribe durable medical equipment and other drugs, and removing these restrictions would allow for a more competitive and efficient healthcare system in Kansas.

Keeping Kansas Competitive with Neighboring States

Several neighboring states grant CRNAs prescriptive authority. If Kansas fails to modernize its regulations, the state risks losing skilled providers to states that offer better practice environments. This will only worsen existing healthcare workforce challenges in Kansas, particularly in rural areas. By passing this reform, Kansas can retain talent, strengthen the healthcare system, and ensure that Kansans receive the care they need without unnecessary delays or costs.

¹ <https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/policy-perspectives-competition-regulation-advanced-practice-nurses/140307aprnpolicy.pdf>

Conclusion

CRNAs have the requisite education and training to prescribe for their patients. Patients across Kansas benefit from this safe and expert care provided by CRNAs today. Removing unnecessary barriers will bring Kansas further in line with the APRN Consensus Model, a model proven to increase access to safe and quality care by APRNs.

I urge this committee to support this common-sense reform that aligns with the Kansas legislature's goals to reduce unnecessary red tape and promote safe and quality care for patients across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at nlivanos@ncsbn.org.

Sincerely,



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