

Date: March 7, 2025

To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Will Carpenter, Chair

From: Carol Moreland, MSN, RN
Executive Administrator
Kansas State Board of Nursing

Subject: Sub for SB 67

Position: **Proponent (Written)**

The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) provides this written testimony in support of Sub for SB 67 that authorizes registered nurse anesthetists to prescribe, procure and administer drugs consistent with the nurse's education and qualifications, amending K.S.A. 65-1158. The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians. KSBN regulates registered nurse anesthetists and there are currently 1,366 licensed registered nurse anesthetists in Kansas.

Sub for SB 67, if passed would change the practice of registered nurse anesthetists (RNAs). They could prescribe, procure, select, order, and administer any drug consistent with such licensee's education and qualifications. The licensed RNA could prescribe durable medical equipment. In order to prescribe controlled substances, a RNA shall register with the federal drug enforcement administration, and comply with federal drug enforcement administration requirements related to controlled substances. Licensed RNAs would not perform or induce an abortion or prescribe, procure or administer drugs for an abortion.

Registered nurse anesthetists obtain specialized education for their role. RNA educational programs in Kansas prepare the student for graduation with a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. Requirements for admission include licensure as a Registered Nurse, certification in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. CCRN certification, a specialized certification for nurses who provide care to acutely/chronically ill patients, is preferred. The applicant must have a minimum of 1-year full-time practice as a Registered Nurse in a critical care unit and have a bachelor's degree.

RNA programs consist of 36 months of didactic and clinical education to assist the student to acquire the knowledge, skills and competence required for their role. The classroom instruction includes courses in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, and pharmacology. The clinical education includes a well-rounded variety of anesthesia techniques and procedures for all types of surgery and obstetrics. Types of anesthesia in clinical education include general, regional and pain management. Clinical education includes over 1000 anesthetic cases with over 2050 hours of direct anesthesia. Special cases include geriatric, pediatric (2 – 12 years), pediatric (<2 years), neonatal (<4 weeks), trauma, obstetrics, and pain management. Anatomic categories included in clinical education

include intra-abdominal, intracranial (open and closed), oropharyngeal, intrathoracic, open heart (with and without cardiopulmonary bypass), closed heart, intrathoracic (lung and other), and neck.

After graduation from the RNA program, the graduate must become nationally certified through the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA). The purpose of the National Certification Examination is to assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for entry-level nurse anesthesia practitioners. NBCRNA credentialing assures the public that the certified registered nurse anesthetist has met objective, predetermined qualifications to provide nurse anesthesia services. Each RNA who fulfills the requirements for certification and continued professional certification by NBCRNA may use the initials “CRNA” after their name. CRNA stand for certified registered nurse anesthetist. The continued professional certification (CPC) program supports life-long learning. Each four-year cycle has a specific set of requirements that include Class A continuing education, Class B professional development activities, core modules and CPC assessment. This CPC assessment assesses the critical core knowledge needed to practice the art and science of nurse anesthesia.

RNAs have the specialized education and qualifications to prescribe, procure, select, order, and administer durable medical equipment and any drug consistent with their role, except for drugs for an abortion. The Kansas State Board of Nursing supports Sub for SB 67 and encourages passage of the bill.