



Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Testimony in Support to Senate Bill 126
Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Monday, February 10, 2025

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to Senate Bill 126, enacting the physician assistant licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants.

The Kansas Chamber formed the Military and Veteran Affairs Council in 2023. The mission of the Military and Veterans Affairs Council is to provide a unified voice to support and grow our state's military institutions and to build stronger relationships between the servicemember and employer communities.

A legislative issue that was brought to our attention through the Military and Veteran Affairs Council was occupational licensing compacts. These compacts are Department of Defense initiatives for states to pass and implement for military spouses and families moving across the country. These interstate compacts streamline the transfer of occupational licenses across state lines. The compacts do not add any additional licensing requirements, change the Kansas licensing requirements for occupations, nor change the continuing education requirements.

Like most occupation fields, especially ones in healthcare, Kansas is experiencing a shortage in Physician Assistants. Over 60 of Kansas' 105 counties are deemed as medically underserved due to physician shortages. This compact will not only help streamline the licensing process of military spouses who are PA's but serve as a tool to assist Kansas in the overall shortage of physician assistants. Physician Assistants are trained and work right under the supervision of a doctor and can help relieve the doctor's role, especially in rural areas.

It is important that the language remains the same in these compacts for what has passed in other states for these compacts to work. With that said I would like to offer two friendly amendments to the committee.

First being in Section 3 A (5) deleting the word *"examination"* and replacing it with *"by its Licensing Board Receiving."* This section should read as: *"fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a time frame established by commission rule, **by its licensing board receiving** the results of a criminal background check and reporting to the commission whether the applicant for licensure has been granted a license;"*.

Secondly in Section 7-page 10 line 31, deleting *"contract"* and replacing it with *"compact."* To read *"and such **compact** privilege's associated fees shall be governed as follows:"*.

In closing the Kansas Chamber views this compact as a necessary step to increase access to physician associates for Kansans and fast track the licensing process for military spouses moving into our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 126, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.