

**Dr. Kathy Perryman Testimony**  
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**Oral Opponent to 2025 Senate Bill 67**

My name is Dr. Perryman and I am here as a physician anesthesiologist who is concerned about Senate Bill 67, as it removes important patient safety provisions relating to certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) who administer anesthesia. I represent myself and the Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists.

I have a unique perspective on this subject because before I became a physician and then an anesthesiologist, I was a nurse anesthetist (CRNA) in my early career. I decided to go to medical school (4 years) and do a residency and fellowship (4 years) another 8 years total after CRNA school because I recognized that I wanted and needed the additional education and training to gain the knowledge base and skills I needed to be capable of safely caring for patients on my own. When I was a CRNA, I knew that I could only practice safely with the oversight of a physician who had those advanced skills and knowledge. An anesthesiologist is a perioperative physician who manages a patient's care before, during, and after surgery. They are responsible for the patient's overall medical management throughout the perioperative period. Surgeons also have these advanced perioperative skills and should be kept in the position of supervisor of CRNAs to keep patients safe when an anesthesiologist is not available, such as in some rural practices.

In addition to my very serious concerns about removing physician oversight from CRNAs administering anesthesia, this bill gives CRNAs permission to practice interventional and chronic pain management, including invasive procedures, like implanting spinal cord stimulators. This would be very dangerous to patients, as only physician anesthesiologists who take additional training in this area are appropriately qualified to perform these high-risk procedures.

There is an abundance of research to support my opinion and to show that removing supervision is not only unsafe, but it does not improve access and it does not save money. Patients want a physician in the event of a complication or medical emergency. Please consider these important safety concerns when evaluating SB 67 and vote against it. Thank you for allowing me to address your committee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy Perryman