

February 10, 2024

To the Kansas Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare:

My name is Dr. Cassie Dietrich, MD, FASA, and I am an anesthesiologist based in Overland Park practicing office-based anesthesia primarily for the care of the pediatric dental population across Kansas and Missouri. I am the Medical Director of Mobile Anesthesia Care, a division of Anesthesia Associates of Kansas City, as well as the Chair of the American Society of Anesthesiologists Committee on Surgical and Procedural Anesthesia and Vice-Chair of the Society of Ambulatory Anesthesia Committee on Office-Based Anesthesia. I am writing to you today to consider the implications of SB67 and encourage you to vote against this bill.

There is a role for a CRNA within the care team model led by a physician. Anesthesiologists have years of education and training to be prepared to identify and address a multitude of problems that may arise during the care of patients undergoing anesthesia. To wipe away that requirement of expertise will only harm the citizens of Kansas. I think a useful analogy is with airline pilots: when you are flying to a destination, you want to relax and not think about whether or not the pilot of the plane is qualified to do the job of getting you there safely. If you happen to hit some turbulence, an experienced pilot knows how to handle it. Just like in flight, critical problems are uncommon while undergoing routine procedures, but when they do occur, you want a physician there to "land the plane safely." This is what we are trained to do and why you should vote against SB67.

When facing a dilemma in the clinical setting, I often ask myself what I would do if this patient were one of my family members. In this instance, I would not allow one of my loved ones to undergo anesthesia without the presence of an anesthesiologist. It is a risk I would not ask of my own family, and I hope that your committee would agree with me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CDietrich", written in a cursive, flowing style.

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