

# ***Kansas Academy of Physician Associates***

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## **Proponent Testimony on House Bill No. 2219 Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare March 5, 2025**

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. I am here to express the Kansas Academy of Physician Associates (KAPA) strong support for House Bill No. 2219, the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact.

KAPA is a constituent organization of the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), was founded 50 years ago and serves as the official representative voice for the PAs in Kansas. Its mission is to enhance the quality of medical care of the citizens of Kansas by promoting the profession and providing medical education resources to physician assistants, other health professionals, policymaking bodies and to the public.

This compact is a crucial step forward in further improving healthcare access, enhancing workforce mobility, and ensuring better patient outcomes.

The concept of an interstate compact for physician assistants began in 2019, and has been jointly developed and supported by the AAPA, Federation of State Medical Boards, National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), and Council of State Governments.

By adopting the Physician Assistant (PA) Compact:

- Kansas will streamline the process for attracting highly qualified healthcare professionals who wish to relocate to the state or expand patient services.
- The compact benefits patients through increased access to care and improved continuity of care, ultimately increasing the availability of skilled providers in underserved and rural areas.
- The compact will also establish a multistate data system that will enhance public protection by facilitating the sharing of licensure and disciplinary information across compact members states.
- The compact will allow for increased license portability, an area of particular need for PAs who travel or relocate regularly, including the military community.

To qualify, PAs must hold an active, unrestricted license in a member state and meet essential state specific eligibility standards, including criminal background checks, and maintain a valid certification from the NCCPA.

PAs granted the privilege to practice have a responsibility to follow the laws and regulations of the state where the care is being provided, ensuring accountability, and maintaining high standards in healthcare.

**We would like to emphasize, the PA Compact does not alter or extend the scope of practice for PAs practicing in Kansas. And the Compact preserves the existing state control of scope of practice, collaboration and supervision requirements, prescribing authority, and initial licensure system.**

Passing this legislation will allow Kansas to join the 13 states already participating in the PA Compact, there are now at least 14 other states currently considering joining the initiative.

The compact facilitates greater workforce mobility, helping to recruit and retain top talent and improve access to care, especially in areas that face healthcare shortages.

The Kansas Academy of Physician Associates urges the Committee to support House Bill No. 2219, which mirrors Senate Bill No. 126—legislation that this Committee approved on February 17th.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to stand for questions.

Doug Smith  
Executive Director  
Kansas Academy of Physician Associates

