



**KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
CARING FOR KANSANS

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Testimony: SB 131, proponent

February 17, 2023

Submitted by: Nicole T. Yedlinsky, MD, CAQSM, FAFP

Written-only comments

Madam Chair and members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) in support of SB 131, providing an exemption from licensure requirements for certain out-of-state physicians practicing medicine on a limited basis in the state during certain sporting events. KAFP represents nearly 2,000 family physicians, resident physicians and medical students across our state. Providing quality health care and health outcomes for our patients is what guides our public policy agenda.

I am a family and sports medicine physician practicing medicine at a large academic medical center in Kansas City, Kansas and serve as Director on KAFP's Board. Kansas is one of only four states that has not passed legislation protecting out-of-state sports medicine physicians who travel across state lines with their team. The need for such legislation was highlighted by a recent medical emergency arising in the setting of a national televised game.

Sports medicine physicians have significant specialized training in both the treatment and prevention of illness and injury. Team physicians work closely with their athletes and have in-depth knowledge of their athletes' medical histories, current injury status, and other factors related to their care. Athletes frequently travel across state lines to compete in collegiate and professional events and this legislation would be in their best interest of athletes who travel with team physicians. SB 131 would clarify the issue of team physicians with out-of-state licensure who travel to Kansas to provide care for their team's athletes and staff.

It is important to note that the provisions of SB 131 for out-of-state team physicians are limited and temporary. It would only apply to the short duration of time the team would be in Kansas for practice or competition, the sport-specific nature of travel, and restricted to care of the team physicians' athletes and staff.

We know that healthcare is best delivered within the context of a trusted physician-patient relationship, and it is no different with athletes. By assuring athletic directors and team management their athletes will be taken care of by their established team physician, SB 131 would make Kansas more attractive to collegiate and professional sporting events.

The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians thanks you for considering the positive impact SB 131 will have on the practice of sport in Kansas.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians:

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, student and life members across the state. Our member physicians are vibrant and trusted members of their communities and are dedicated to creating a healthier Kansas. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.