



February 16, 2023

Senate Public Health and Welfare
RE: Senate Bill 112

Dear Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity (AFP) activists in Kansas, I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 112. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and advocate for building a patient-centered health care system that lowers costs, increase choices, and improves access for millions of people seeking relief. The reforms outlined in SB 112 to expand access to CRNAs would promote all these important goals and further complete to good work this body did last year for APRNs.

We are thrilled to see already the fruits of last' years successful legislation including clinics even right here in CD 2 opening to serve patients for family practice, mental health and weight loss. Even though Kansas faces some of the worst physician shortages of any state in the nation, we are confident we can meet the provider need with highly qualified nurse practitioners since we have empowered them to serve our state well.

Unfortunately, the legislation last year left out an important group who would further benefit rural areas and clinics in the state. We ask that the committee would also empower Kansas' Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAS) to provide for Kansas' growing medical needs. The bill would allow CRNAs, which include nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists, to independently deliver all the primary, acute, and specialty health care services they are trained to provide. Currently, CRNAs are required to work under the direct supervision of a doctor whenever they practice, which severely limits their capacity to treat patients in areas that lack physicians. Burdensome supervision requirements also consume physician time that could be better spent by them focusing on patients with complex cases.

By ending this burdensome requirement, this proposal would dramatically expand access to medical care in communities who face physician shortages. Since CRNAs require fewer years of training to practice than physicians, they can readily deploy to underserved areas with the greatest health care needs. Surveys conducted by the American Academy of Nursing have found that nurses are far more likely than doctors to operate in rural communities and in non-traditional

settings like urgent care and in-store clinics, which allow them to reach patients who lack reliable access to physicians.ⁱ

A 2013 review of 26 peer-reviewed studies in the journal *Health Affairs* found that patients treated by NPs enjoy the same beneficial health outcomes as those served by physicians.ⁱⁱ

This committee can ensure more families can receive the health care they need by allowing CRNAs to provide the full range of high-quality medical care they are trained and certified to deliver in ALL parts of our state. Please vote “Yes” on SB 112 in committee to strengthen health care access, lower costs, and end Kansas’ crippling doctor shortage.

We thank you for the opportunity to address this critical issue and we look forward to working with the Committee to craft real reforms that expand access to affordable and high-quality health care for all Kansans.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton
Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas

ⁱ [https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554\(14\)00188-2/fulltext](https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554(14)00188-2/fulltext)

ⁱⁱ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20121025.457840/full/>