

Written testimony in Support of HB 2066 Updating APRN Statutes
House Health & Human Services Committee
Date February 1, 2019

Chairman Landwehr and committee members,

My name is Sonia Slaba from Wichita.

I grew up in Fowler KS, which is a small town in southwest Kansas. I attended Dodge City Community College and obtained my nursing degree from there. I worked at the Meade District Hospital (ten miles west of Fowler) for about 15 years before moving to Wichita. The hospital had one physician and two nurse practitioners when I worked there. They would staff the hospital with traveling nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

I come from a family of 7 children who have children of their own now and still doctor in Meade Kansas which now still has two physicians and several nurse practitioners and physician assistants. They cover Fowler, Meade, and Plains and the surrounding towns. Ten miles to the east is Minneola which has 4 physicians and several nurse practitioners who serve Minneola, Fowler, Ashland, Bucklin and other surrounding towns. Ashland now serves their hospital and town with all nurse practitioners because their physician has left. This is only a small glimpse showcasing the importance of nurse practitioners in southwest Kansas.

I now work and live in Wichita, where having access to collaborating physicians comes easy, but with a price. Most physicians come with a monthly fee which varies from several hundred to several thousand dollars a month.

I ask for your support of HB 2066 . Kansas will benefit by having more APRNs in Kansas who can provide easy access to healthcare.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sonia Slaba DNAP, APRN, FNP-C, PMHNP-S

sonia-1020@outlook.com