



February 14, 2019

Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Alex Melugin and I am the Vice President of Operations for Phoenix Home Care & Hospice. I am writing this letter in support of allowing the practice of Certified Anesthesiologists Assistants (CAAs) in the state of Kansas. Our neighboring states; specifically Colorado, Missouri and Oklahoma have taken the approach of interchangeably using CAAs and CRNAs. During my 13 years of experience in the healthcare industry, I have seen this same pragmatic approach of interchangeability taken with PAs and APRNs. This has led to safe and cost-effective solutions to a looming shortage of family physicians, especially in rural areas.

Kansas needs an increased workforce in the anesthesia field and allowing the expansion of the CAA profession would be a very positive step in the right direction. Fiscally it would decrease the cost of healthcare for the state. It would also create well paid jobs for our current citizens and help recruit other professionals to our state. Being a resident in the greater Wichita community, I am aware that the deficit of CRNAs has reached a critical stage. Allowing our hospital systems and anesthesiologists to utilize CAAs would add a great benefit to our healthcare system and patients alike.

I appreciate your time and attention in considering this critically important issue and respectfully request that you approve the credentialing applications of CAAs.

Sincerely,

Alex Melugin
Vice President of Operations