

TESTIMONY OF RONALD ANDREW COLE, CAA
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PROPONENT REGARDING HB 2295
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and HHS committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2295.

My name is Ronald Andrew Cole and I am a longtime Kansas resident and a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant. I was born in Olathe, I attended the CAA program at the University of Missouri - Kansas City and am currently employed at Saint Luke's Hospital on the Plaza. Without licensure my ability to work while continuing to live in Kansas are extremely limited. I have seen many friends and colleagues leave the state for other areas which support CAA licensure. By supporting CAA licensure in Kansas, you will bring high paying jobs and health care providers to an area with a great need and demand.

Together with more than a dozen other CAA's we take care of thousands of patients a year in the anesthesia care team alongside Anesthesiologists. The quality and safety of our care is without question. At Saint Luke's, as well as a dozen other major hospitals in Missouri, CAA's and CRNA's work side by side with great respect for one another. CAA's are involved in cases ranging from open heart surgery, labor and delivery, and orthopedic surgery. CAA's undergo a rigorous academic and clinical training. I personally logged over 2000 hours of surgery before graduation. Any argument that we are not equally qualified to practice anesthesia is blatantly false as demonstrated by the thousands of CAA's who work in hospitals all over the country.

Please support HB2205 and the licensure of CAA's in Kansas. This is a great opportunity for the state of Kansas and its people. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ronald Andrew Cole
Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant
UMKC Class of 2016