

January 29, 2024

To: Rep. Will Carpenter, Chair and the members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of HB 2358 and the amendment defining the “cause of death certifier”.

I have been a nurse practitioner in western Kansas for 28 years. The rural areas of our state have had a shortage of physicians for years and those physicians are overworked, which means signing death certificates is sometimes inadvertently delayed. This delay causes extra stress for families trying to finalize the deceased’s estate.

Including APRNs in the definition of “cause of death certifier” will help improve the processing of death certificates. There are APRNs in the majority of counties across our state and they are well qualified to complete death certificates.

All 3 sections of the amendment for HB 2358 are important and will help expedite the signing of death certificates.

Thank you for your time and effort towards improving the process of signing death certificates.

Respectfully,

Michelle Knowles, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP