

Testimony of Jeremy Cook, MD  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Oral Proponent Regarding SB 223

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing us to speak to you today in support of SB 223 which will authorize and license a new health care provider in KS to assist physician anesthesiologists. The provider would be known as a certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA).

I am a physician anesthesiologist practicing in Kansas City, Kansas. I also help teach the next generation of doctors for our state.

To briefly summarize events that have occurred before this hearing today, KSA and the Kansas Medical Society (KMS) introduced CAA licensure legislation during the 2017 legislative session. At that time, concerns were raised that the KDHE Credentialing of Health Care Personnel process had not been completed. As a result, we were instructed to complete the KDHE credentialing process and it was also requested that KSA meet with the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KANA) and attempt to reach a compromise on the issue. A meeting was subsequently held where both sides had the opportunity to discuss their respective positions. After that meeting it was reported to us that the KANA board voted to suspend any further discussions with KSA related to CAA licensure.

KSA along with representatives of the CAA community filed an application with KDHE to begin the credentialing process on September 1, 2017, and that process was finally completed in December, 2018. The KDHE Technical Review Committee, after a series of meetings which included the opportunity to hear from both proponents and opponents of the issue, determined that all nine criteria for provider credentialing had been met, and voted to approve the application for credentialing of CAAs in Kansas. Attached to my testimony is a list of all of the proponents who took the time to write letters of support or appear in front of the committee requesting licensure of CAAs. The technical review committee recommended on their report that the CAAs credentialing application be approved and the provider be licensed by the state. That report was forwarded to the Secretary of KDHE and after review by the new Secretary of KDHE, the report was signed and finally presented to the Legislature in February, 2019. We then had a hearing in the House Health Committee on February 18 on HB 2295 which is very similar to SB 223. That bill has been blessed and may have action taken on it in the House before the end of the Session and we are now before you today for consideration of SB 223.

During testimony today you will hear from physician anesthesiologists with significant long-term experience practicing with CAAs in an anesthesia care team model. They are familiar with the education, training and quality, safe care CAAs provide. You will also hear from other anesthesiologists in Kansas whose practices are experiencing severe provider shortages and are desperately seeking an additional provider pool to fill those needs and continue to provide access to safe anesthesia care for their patients. You will also hear from a CAA who would like the opportunity to work in the state they live in and call home, Kansas.

On behalf of the Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists, we respectfully request your passage of SB 223 which will allow CAAs to work in Kansas and improve access to care for Kansas citizens.

## **Kansas Credentialing Review Program**

### **Application for Credentialing of Health Care Personnel - Anesthesiologist Assistants**

**November 8, 2018**

#### **Proponent Testimony**

##### **Oral Testimony**

1. Jeremy Betts, JD  
General Counsel - American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
2. Ty Townsend, CAA  
Kansas Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
3. Melanie Guthrie MSA, CAA  
Anesthesiologist Assistant Program Director, UMKC
4. Julie Banderas, Pharm.D., F.C.C.P., B.C.P.S.  
Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, UMKC
5. Laura Knoblach, CAA  
President Elect - American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
6. Gina Phillips, CAA
7. Kelsey Koehler, CAA
8. Rachelle Colombo  
Kansas Medical Society
9. Kathy Perryman, MD Physician Anesthesiologist
10. Eric Weissend MD Physician Anesthesiologist
11. Denise Weiss, DO Physician Anesthesiologist
12. Jessica Sweeney, MD Physician Anesthesiologist
13. Jim Kelly, MD Physician Anesthesiologist
14. James Kindscher, MD Physician Anesthesiologist
15. Jay Nachtigal, MD Physician Anesthesiologist
16. Greg George, MD Physician Anesthesiologist

##### **Written Testimony**

###### **Associations & Groups**

1. Nick Davies, CAA, President - American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
2. Linda J. Mason, MD FASA Physician Anesthesiologist – President, American Society of Anesthesiologists

3. David Hoyt, MD FACS, Executive Director - American College of Surgeons
4. Michael J. Murphy, MD, Chief Medical Officer – MEDNAX services, Inc.
5. Jeffrey Weiss, DO FASA Physician Anesthesiologist – President, Team Health Anesthesia
6. Michael Wacker, Ph.D Associate Dean of Academic Affairs –UMKC
7. Betty Drees, MD Professor and Dean Emerita –UMKC
8. William Voloch, President & CEO Wesley Healthcare, Wichita KS

### Physicians

1. William Anast, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
2. Craig Austin, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
3. Amy Cabbabe, MD (former CAA) Physician Anesthesiologist - Ladue, MO
4. Jamey Degner, MD Physician - Andover, KS
5. Jason Drennan, DO Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
6. Chinwe Dryer, MD Physician Anesthesiologist – Kansas City, KS
7. Andrew Ellet, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
8. Kevin Hampel Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
9. Randall Hudson, MD (retired) Physician Anesthesiologist - Anesthesia/Critical Care Dept. at Saint Luke’s Hospital, Kansas City
10. Christopher Kerr, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
11. Scott Maxwell, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Edmond, OK
12. Michael McCartney, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Leawood, KS
13. Keith Neuenswander, DO Physician Anesthesiologist - Liberty, Missouri
14. Shanna Ogden, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
15. Larry Peterson, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
16. Kent Scheller, DO Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
17. Jim Suthoff, DO Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
18. Timothy Swearingin, DO Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
19. Joshua Zinner, MD Physician Anesthesiologist - Springfield, MO
20. Sam Lobell, MD Physician Anesthesiologist – Kansas City, KS
21. Timothy Walsh, MD Physician Anesthesiologist – Kansas City, KS
22. David Sanger, MD Physician Anesthesiologist – Larned, KS
23. Wichita resident Physician Anesthesiologists

### Certified Anesthesiologists Assistants

1. Rache Luptak Bayer, CAA
2. Berg, CAA
3. Joseph Borup, CAA

4. Tyler Bollinger, CAA
5. Ronald Cole, CAA
6. Lindsey Colner, CAA
7. Courtney Degner, CAA
8. Melissa Dell, CAA
9. Charis DeNovi, CAA
10. Michael Ferrante, CAA
11. Elizabeth Gambill, CAA
12. Cameron Gieselmann, CAA
13. Courtney Haanpaa, CAA
14. Kyle Harlan, CAA
15. Lena Harlan, CAA
16. Jamie Kedinger, CAA
17. Jeremy Kolb, CAA
18. Travis Lundell, CAA
19. Brian Maddox, CAA
20. Thomas McManus, CAA
21. Jamie Nafzinger, CAA
22. Jennifer Nguyen, CAA
23. Jennifer Nolan CAA
24. Gudrun Olasdottir, CAA
25. Jay Osborne, CAA
26. Cecilee Platz, CAA
27. Curtis Prost, CAA
28. Maggie Riffel, CAA
29. Mary Roberts, CAA
30. Michael Roth, CAA
31. Jessica Sadowksy, CAA
32. Amanda Sharp CAA
33. Landon Streed, CAA
34. Matt Vlach, CAA
35. Colin Warnock, CAA
36. Tyler Werth, CAA
37. Amanda Womack, CAA
38. Morgan Woolsey, CAA
39. Kane Znamenacek CAA
40. Caleb Hopkins, CAA
41. Alexander Treat, CAA
42. Brent Platz, CAA
43. Megg McCue, CAA
44. Spencer Jones, CAA
45. Heather Ruck, CAA