

## Senate Bill 174

The Kansas State Nurses Association supports Senate Bill 174.

The Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA) actively advocates legislation that directly affects the careers of our over 60,000 Registered Nurses in the state of Kansas which includes APRNs. It is our mission statement to promote professional nursing, to provide a unified voice for nursing in Kansas and to advocate for the health and well-being of all 2.9 million Kansans. KSNA is the largest nursing association in Kansas and constituent members of the American Nurses Association (ANA) the largest nursing association in the country.

The shortage of primary care providers has been a concern for years, particularly in rural Kansas, where many areas lack an adequate number of health professionals. APRNs help to fill the gap to enhance access to primary care for many rural, and urban, areas and positively impact the overall health of the communities they serve.

Kansas has an acute need for more primary care providers:

- Of the 105 counties in Kansas, 102 have a shortage of primary health care providers.
- Kansas is ranked 24th in the nation for access to health care.
- Kansas is ranked 42nd out of 50 for health care quality.
- In 2020, Kansas made the Medical Economics list of “Twenty States Most Desperate for Primary Care Physicians”.

According to Dr. John Leatherman, Professor at Kansas State University, states; “A strong healthcare system can (1) help attract and maintain business and industry growth, (2) attract and retain retirees, and (3) create jobs in the local area. A vigorous and sustainable healthcare system is essential not only for the health and welfare of community residents, but to enhance economic opportunity as well. Studies have found that quality of life factors play a dramatic role in business and industry location decisions.”. With APRN Full Practice Authority, we will provide a positive economic impact in our rural and urban communities.

We must emphasize that APRN’s must continue to maintain their license and regulation under the Kansas Board of Nursing (KSBN) and do NOT support any regulation by the Board of Healing Arts (BOHA). After seeing how this has hurt Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM’s) and decreased access to care for pregnant women and children since 2016, BOHA has proved that a competing profession would only cripple healthcare access. The purpose of APRN Full Practice Authority is to increase access to healthcare, not decrease.

We appreciate your support of APRN’s and all nurses within the state of Kansas. Please contact us with any additional questions or concerns.

Best regards,

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Kansas State Nurses Association Board of Directors