

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Richard Hilderbrand
Chair, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Capitol Office
Room: 445-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Support for S.B. 174

Hearing: February 18, 2021, 8:30am

Dear Senator Hilderbrand,

My name is Kyanna Kuntz. I live in Junction City, Kansas and work at Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

I write this letter urging you to support S.B. 174, Updating Scope of Practice Requirements for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

I graduated with a Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Kansas in 2004. I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Pittsburg State University in 1999. I am a Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), a women's health Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). I am passionate about caring for military mothers and their families. I work for the Department of Defense at Irwin Army Community Hospital in the Obstetrics & Gynecology Clinic and Labor & Delivery Unit at Fort Riley, Kansas.

I work in the ideal setting, practicing full-scope Women's Healthcare and Midwifery. I work in the OB/GYN clinic performing annual women's health exams, pap smears, prescribing birth control, treating women's primary care needs, treating infections such as STIs as well as providing prenatal care, postpartum care, Centering Pregnancy group prenatal care and lactation support. I also have full-scope admitting privileges in the inpatient Labor & Delivery Unit delivering babies and assisting physicians with cesarean section surgeries. The OB/GYN Physicians I work with are very supportive and acknowledge the contributions I make to women's healthcare. They are available for consultation, collaboration and referral of high-risk patients when needed. This is how APRNs provide care in 22 other states including the District of Columbia, Veterans Administration, Department of Defense and Bureau of Indian Affairs. ***This is how APRNs should provide care across the entire State of Kansas.***

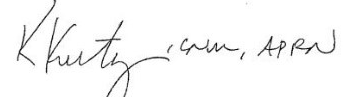
S.B. 174 would lift the restrictive collaborative practice requirement currently hindering CNMs and other APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education, training and certification in Kansas. S.B. 174 requires all Kansas APRNs to have national certification and carry malpractice insurance. The removal of practice restrictions in other states has increased the number of APRNs which has improved access to primary healthcare and mental healthcare services for Medicare, Medicaid, underserved and rural area patients. Currently, Kansas is not able to meet all of the primary care needs and mental healthcare needs in rural and health professional shortage areas. Numerous studies over the past 20 years provide evidence of quality care & lower health care costs when APRNs are utilized to the full extent of their education and training.

APRNs are licensed by the Kansas Board of Nursing. Certified Nurse-Midwives are Certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board recognized by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The regulation body of APRNs should remain under the direction of the Kansas Board of Nursing as they are the organization who governs nurses and APRNs. The Kansas Board of Nursing supports S.B. 174.

I ask for your support of S.B. 174. Kansans will benefit by having more Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who can provide easy access to quality, safe healthcare.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Kuntz, CNM, APRN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kyanna S. Kuntz, CNM, APRN

Kyanna.kuntz@gmail.com

(785) 375-0283

3822 Brookfield Drive

Junction City, Kansas 66441