

Kaanp

Kansas Alliance of Advanced Nurse Practitioners
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Wichita, KS 67205

February 8, 2005

Jim Morrison, Chair; Peggy Mast, Vice-Chair; Bob Bethell; Pat Colloton; Willa DeCastro; Geraldine Flaharty; Delia Garcia; Mario Goico; Don Hill; Tom Holland; Kasha Kelley; Mike Kiegerl; Patricia Kilpatrick; Brenda Landwehr; Frank Miller; bill Otto; Eber Phelps; Judy Showalter; Sue Storm; Jason Watkins
House Health and Human Services Committee
Topeka, KS

Dear Committee Members:

Your committee recently introduced H.B. 2256 relating to the Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner practice. This bill has come to the attention of the Kansas Alliance of Advanced Nurse Practitioners, the Kansas Affiliate of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The organization will be watching the progression of this bill as the legislative session continues.

The Kansas Alliance of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (KAANP) was initially established as a Task Force in 1987 and approved as an affiliate of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) in 1989. The Kansas Alliance of Advanced Nurse Practitioners is the recognized state organization for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners in the State of Kansas.

The mission of KAANP is to promote the advancement of the role of advanced practice nursing. The initial concerns for the organization were legislative, liability, protocol, prescriptive authority, and third party pay as well as general advanced practice issues. These concerns are just as important today as they were fifteen years ago. Our organization has worked with other healthcare organizations, including the Kansas State Board of Nursing, to promote quality, cost-effective, and most importantly safe health care to the residents of the State of Kansas.

The general purposes of the organization are to: promote high standards of health care delivered by advanced registered nurse practitioners, serve as a forum to enhance identity and continuance of the role of advanced registered nurse practitioners, and function as a network of key information for advanced registered nurse practitioners.

The services provided by KAANP include professional meetings to address issues and concerns of advanced practitioners. The alliance holds an annual assembly for addressment of the issues in addition to conducting business before the membership and provision of a relevant practice topic for continuing education needs. KAANP also plans and holds programs addressing legislative and third party pay, protocol, including preparations of testimony, platforms, and proclamations. The annual assembly held in August 2004 addressed the KSBN proposed ARNP regulation revisions by having KSBN staff give details to the membership. Other services of the organization include networking between colleagues to share practice and professional ideas and co-joint planning of addressing issues with other organizations regarding advanced practice nursing in the state of Kansas.

As current President of the Alliance, I have previously established an Ad Hoc committee, which has worked closely with the Kansas State Board of Nursing ARNP committee for approximately the last two years on proposed ARNP regulation revisions. There has been significant progress with the committee work in making revisions without need to open the statutes at this time. Due to the rapidity of the movement of this committee, KAANP has not had time to fully study the ramifications on the future of advanced registered nurse practice in the state. KAANP is notifying the membership regarding H.B. 2256 and will be studying the issue closely.

During the past two years, our Ad Hoc committee has studied the advanced registered nurse practice acts of all fifty states, the standards and scopes of practice from each of the nursing specialties and accrediting bodies to ensure that revisions made to the current KSBN nurse practice act will be congruent with regard to quality, safe care and evidence based practice. Our organization has made suggestions to the KSBN ARNP subcommittee working on the proposed revisions on several occasions and continues to work with them. Part of this work has included definitions such as protocol and collaboration as well as addressing the need for national certification for ARNPs to practice in the State of Kansas. National certification of Kansas ARNPs has been a goal of KAANP since the organization formed in 1987.

KAANP will continue to follow H.B. 2256 and other legislation related to advanced registered nurse practice in the state of Kansas to ensure high quality, cost-effective, and safe health care to the residents of the great State of Kansas now and for the future. KAANP is pleased to see that the entire state is well represented on this committee and that nursing and other health care professionals are represented as well. We would be most grateful to assist the legislators in their endeavors to do the same.

Sincerely,

Lou Miller, EdS, MSN, ARNP, FNP
President, Kansas Alliance of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (KAANP)

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