

Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants

House Bill 2256

10 February 2005

Health and Human Services Committee

The Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants appreciates the opportunity to express opposition to House Bill 2256. While the intent of this bill is to redefine the role of our Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) colleagues, we find that the bill, as written, redefines the role of the Physician Assistant as well. It is only this issue with which the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants is concerned today.

Since the inception of the Physician Assistant (PA) profession in 1967, the foundation of the profession is the relationship of the PA with the supervising physician. Physician Assistants today remain committed to our relationships with our supervising physicians and our patients. We have enjoyed a good relationship with our ARNP colleagues. We are therefore entirely perplexed that House Bill 2256 appears to want to redefine our profession by removing the cornerstone, replacing our supervising physician with the option of a supervising ARNP as set forth in Sec. 1. (c). Physician Assistants enter into written protocols with physicians only. The rewording of this Statute would allow a PA to enter a written protocol with an ARNP. This is in direct conflict with PA statutes. Moreover, PAs are regulated by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. Yet, ARNPs are not supervised by the Board of Healing Arts, but by the Board of Nursing. Allowing for the supervision of PAs by ARNPs simply does not make sense.

In conclusion, PAs remain committed to dependent practice, with physicians at the head of the physician-PA team. This team concept has flourished since those first three PAs were graduated from Duke University in 1967. We do not believe that the State of Kansas needs to redefine the entire PA profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Legislative Chair
Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants

We suggest amending Page 1 - Lines 28 through 31 by reinserting the stricken language “or advanced registered nurse practitioner” after “physician assistant” on line 28 and striking the rest of the sentence through line 31.

28 (c) “Mid-level practitioner” means a physician assistant or advanced
29 registered nurse practitioner who has entered into a written protocol with
30 ~~(1) a rural health network physician or (2) an advanced registered nurse~~
31 ~~practitioner.~~