

Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2342

February 9, 2006

Chairman Morrison and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony House Bill No. 2342. I am Doug Smith and I serve as the Executive Director for the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants (KAPA).

KAPA serves as the official representative voice for the Physician Assistants (PA) in Kansas. Our purpose is to enhance the quality of medical care of the citizens of Kansas by providing medical education to physician assistants, other health professionals, the legislature, governing bodies and to the public. In Kansas, there are more than 660 Physician Assistants licensed by the State Board of Healing Arts. The Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants membership includes 325+ licensed and practicing PAs and student members.

A Physician Assistant serves as an integral part in the practice of medicine by providing needed health care services across this state. Without the use of Physician Assistant the accessibility to medical care can be limited, particularly in rural areas.

In many of our communities, Physician Assistants are providing many medical services and are qualified to evaluate, diagnose and treat many illnesses and conditions, as well as performing urgent lifesaving procedures. Physician Assistants also offer patient education and counseling.

The Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants appears today to request consideration of the following amendments to House Bill No. 2342. We believe this to be a friendly amendment and would be supported by the sponsors of the bill.

We ask that you add the attached wording to House Bill No. 2342 and include a physician assistant to the healthcare providers identified in this legislation. (The language would be inserted on page 1, lines 13 and 25.)

We ask for your favorable action on this request as you consider this legislation.

Thank you for your time today and consideration.

Douglas E. Smith
Executive Director
Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants