



February 11, 2019

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Madame Chair and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

As Cerner's Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical and Patient Safety Officer, I am honored to write to you regarding HB 2066, legislation that would amend the Nurse Practice Act.

I have been in health care since 1978 and with Cerner since 2001. I have been licensed as a registered nurse since 1978, I hold a doctorate in healthcare administration, master's in business administration, board certified in nursing informatics, and a Fellow for American College of Healthcare Executives.

I have over 20 years of experience in health care informatics and 12 years of neurological and surgical ICU clinical experience.

I serve as Cerner's Chief Clinical Officer and Patient Safety officer, the executive sponsor for the academic and pediatric communities, and have chaired the Patient Care Executive Council for nursing executives and Pediatric Leadership Council (PLC) activities for greater than ten years.

My experience and work in healthcare have allowed me to see the excellent work and capabilities our nation's nurses provide. They are trained and licensed to serve patients and protect patients care.

- The bill would no longer require Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to establish a collaborative agreement with a responsible physician or have physician oversight of APRN practices.
- However, the bill would require proof of national certification for APRN licensure at the time of licensure and licensure renewal, and the Board of Nursing would be required to recognize national certifying organizations whose certifications standards are equal to or greater than the corresponding standards established by the Board.

Today, 23 states' laws allow "NP Practice Autonomy" including Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and many other states.

For example, the shortage of primary care physicians in Oklahoma spurred the state's legislative bodies to grant expanded authority for NPs. In March 2017, Oklahoma legislators allowed NPs to prescribe medications without physician oversight.

NPs working in Nebraska have FPA, along with the full authority to prescribe medications. They must complete 30 hours in pharmacology before gaining prescriptive authority.

NPs who work in Colorado have FPA and the potential to gain full prescriptive authority after completing 1,000 hours of practice with provisional prescriptive authority. Before obtaining full prescriptive authority, NPs require oversight from a physician or a mentoring NP.



In Iowa, NPs can advise, diagnose, and treat patients without physician oversight. Those with advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) licensure may also lead their independent practices while focusing on their area of specialty. While not all NPs can prescribe medications, professionals with ARNP licensure can do so without oversight.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) issued a proposal that would “permit full practice authority of all VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment.”

As the provider shortage grows, states need to look at innovative and safe ways to provide healthcare access and service to families. APRNs are well trained in Kansas. The University of Kansas Nursing School is one of the finest in the nation.

We can trust our nurses to be well trained, well prepared and passionate to serve families and build healthier communities.

Cerner is concerned about patient safety and standards. We know opponents to HB 2066 are concerned about patient safety. We share their concern.

- In 2001, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) shared a patient safety impact report, examining quality issues and detailing changes needed for patient safety. The IOM identified six aims for improvement noting that health care should be safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable.
- In 2004, another IOM report discussed the value of nurses and the environments in which they provide care, offering examples of how to design nurses’ work environments to enable delivering safer patient care.
- All these studies and this data is to say that nurses, who represent over half of health care workers in the nation, play a critical role for ensuring not just patient safety, but quality patient care.

Cerner supports HB 2066 sets clear standards for training, certification, and licensing. Patients are safe in the service of APRNs. We hope the Kansas House and Kansas Senate can come to an agreement that will create a path for nurses to practice at their full scope and give patients greater access to care!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eva Karp".

Eva Karp, DHA, MBA, RN-BC, FACHE

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