

TESTIMONY OF CINDY STILLINGS
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PROPONENT REGARDING HB 2295
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Dear Representative Landwehr:

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 2295, which would provide for the licensing of Anesthesiologist Assistants in Kansas.

My son, John Stillings, is a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) working in the Tampa, Florida area. He is a proud native of Kansas, educated in Topeka public schools and a graduate of the University of Kansas. He earned his Masters of Science in the field of Anesthesiologist Assistant from Case Western Reserve University - Houston, Texas campus. John's preference was to move back to Kansas to work in this field, but he couldn't because Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) licenses are not recognized in Kansas. Currently, the only anesthetist assistant professionals allowed to work in Kansas are Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

I hear fairly often how more and more young people are leaving Kansas to pursue their careers in other states. This is especially true in the rural areas and small towns around the state where residents are experiencing the loss of services, including critical medical care professionals. The enactment of HB 2295 would be a step in the right direction in providing an incentive for some of those young professionals to stay in Kansas. Plus, it would be a draw for others to move to and work in Kansas.

HB 2295 wouldn't just benefit Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAA) by allowing them to work in Kansas, it would also be a great benefit to the medical community and the people who are in need of medical care. CAA's are specifically trained to assist Anesthesiologists in the operating room and in medical facilities. Unlike Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), who are not always supervised to administer anesthesia, CAA's work under the supervision of the Anesthesiologist. This enhances the quality and safety of medical assistance to the doctor and medical care to the patient.

Please vote "YES" to enact House Bill No. 2295. This will create career opportunities and improve the quality of medical care for all Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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