

TESTIMONY OF SPENCER JONES, CAA
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PROPONENT REGARDING HB 2295
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

The Honorable Brenda Landwehr
Kansas House of Representatives

Dear Representative Landwehr:

I'm writing today in support of HB 2295, legislation to allow Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants to practice in the state of Kansas. I was born in Kansas City and have lived in Kansas the majority of my life but have been restricted from working in the state I call home since I obtained a Master's in Anesthesia from UMKC in 2014. As Kansas City job opportunities were limited to the Missouri side of the border, I decided to move to Albuquerque, NM to begin my career providing compassionate, high-quality anesthesia care. Only in the last year have I returned home to live in Kansas, but I work in Missouri. My hope is to one day soon be able to serve the growing patient population in Kansas with the quality perioperative care that Anesthesiologist Assistants provide.

The extensive track record of CAA practice is one of safety, reliability, and efficiency, and I am proud to call myself part of this tremendous group of practitioners. While our numbers are certainly lower in the Midwest, CAAs have been a potent force for patient safety in large portions of the south for over 50 years. An extensive retrospective study recently published in *Anesthesiology* ("Anesthesia Care Team Composition and Surgical Outcomes") reviewed over 400,000 anesthetics provided by CRNAs and AAs between 2004 and 2011 and came to the following results and conclusion: "The adjusted mortality for care teams with anesthesiologist assistants was 1.6% versus 1.7% for care teams with nurse anesthetists. Compared to care teams with nurse anesthetists, care teams with anesthesiologist assistants were associated with non-statistically significant decreases in length of stay and medical spending... The specific composition of the anesthesia care team was not associated with any significant differences in mortality, length of stay, or inpatient spending."

With an ever-aging population and an increasing quantity of procedures requiring anesthetic care (especially those for acute and chronic pain), demand for anesthesia services is higher than ever, and will only continue to rise. CAAs are ready and willing to diligently complement the great anesthesiologists and CRNAs of Kansas; we all appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Spencer Jones, CAA
KSAAA Board Member