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Testimony on SB 223

Providing for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

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Good afternoon Chair Suellentrop and committee members. My name is Martha Cooper and I am an attorney with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the credentialing process which is codified by statute in K.S.A. 65-5001 et seq., and regulated by K.A.R. 28-60-1 to 28-60-9.

The first step in this credentialing process is for a health care occupation to file a notice of intent pursuant to K.A.R. 28-60-2(a). The KDHE Secretary shall then determine if the profession or occupation meets the definition of health care personnel. Each notice of intent shall be approved or denied in writing by the Secretary within 60 days after receiving the notice. If the Secretary approves the notice of intent, the applicant may submit a credentialing application.

In the most recent credentialing process, the notice of intent was approved by the Secretary. An application to credential anesthesiologist assistants was submitted by the Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists on September 6, 2017.

A Technical Committee needed to be formed as the term of the prior seven (7) Committee members had expired. Three members of the Committee must be current Kansas credentialed health care personnel, and four Committee members must be consumers of health care who are not also providers of health care. (K.S.A. 65-5003(a)). The new Technical Committee members were appointed by July 2018. The process of appointing a new Technical Committee took longer than expected due to a new Secretary being appointed in January 2018, and two potential members who initially said yes later changed their minds for various reasons.

On July 26, 2018 a notice of the required four public meetings was published in the Kansas Register. (K.S.A. 65-5003(c)). The Technical Committee conducted the four public meetings to determine if the required 9 criteria had been met by the applicant. (K.S.A. 65-5006). At the August 29, 2018 Applicant Review public meeting, the applicant presented an overview and description of the application. At the October 3, 2018 Analysis public meeting, the Technical Committee developed preliminary findings and recommendations as to whether the criteria had been met by the applicant. At the November 8, 2018 public hearing, testimony was presented by proponents and opponents of the application. Written testimony was submitted before, during and after this hearing, and this was made part of the record. The final public meeting was held on December 12, 2018. The Technical Committee approved the credentialing application at that meeting, finding the 9 criteria

had been met by clear and convincing evidence. The Technical Committee report was finalized in January 2019, and submitted to the Secretary on February 5, 2019. The Secretary issued his Final Report on February 14, 2019, adopting the Technical Committee report.