

February 17, 2021

Dear Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 174. My name is Ronda Eagleson and I am a Advance Practice Registered Nurse, board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner. I live and practice in Newton, Kansas currently.

I appreciate your time and commitment to the health care needs of Kansas. I know the Kansas Medical Society (KMS) will attempt to put APRNs under the Board of Healing Arts (BOHA) this year. This cannot happen and would, in fact, restrict access to care even further while we face a shortage of primary care providers in Kansas. The Federal Trade Commission weighed in on the risk of moving our profession under the BOHA stating that it is "inappropriate for one agency to regulate professionals who constitute market competitors of those regulated by such agency, as this would constitute a restraint of trade." Furthermore, this move would violate Supreme Court Case [North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC](#). Nationally, states are moving away from joint regulation. South Dakota and Florida abolished joint regulation in 2017. There are only three states with joint regulation of APRN licensure: Alabama, North Carolina, and Virginia. Those states continue to work towards severing the joint regulation. All other states license APRNs exclusively under the Board of Nursing.

I believe the Kansas State Board of Nursing is very capable of regulating Advance Practice Registered Nurses. They are well versed in our education, training and the mission they have to provide safe care for Kansans. I have previously had personal experience with restraint of my practice by a physician colleague. When several of his patients wanted to begin seeing me in my practice, he had the hospital administrator limit my ability to see patients in the community other than having me cover the Emergency Department. There was no concern about my education or training, only on the monetary impact to the provider. This situation produced a hardship for the patients and community I served. I have always been collegial in my practice, as this is part of my education and training, and is the best way to serve my patients.

Another perspective worth reading: <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/nurse-practitioners-a-solution-to-americas-primary-care-crisis/>. The removal of practice restrictions in other states has been shown to increase the number of licensed APRNs, allowing improved access to primary health care and mental health care services for Medicare, Medicaid, underserved and rural area patients.

With full practice authority APRN's will practice within our education, training and certification. Professional collaboration with other healthcare professionals will continue to be a standard practice. The APRN scope of practice does not change with full practice authority.

Thank you, for your time and consideration. Please be mindful of your own health, get regular checkups. You are always welcome to contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ronda M Eagleson, APRN, FNP-BC
828 Trinity Ct.
Newton, KS. 67114
reagleson1@cox.net