



TESTIMONY
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
SB 69
January 29, 2015

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee regarding SB 69. KAOM is opposed to SB 69.

APRNs play a significant, important role in meeting the health care needs of patients when working in collaboration with physician led health care teams. However, KAOM has a number of issues with the proposed scope of practice expansion for APRNs. Our chief concerns are listed below.

- While APRNs are highly educated, even with the increase in educational hours, their education falls short of the four years of graduate-level education, 3-7 years of residency/fellowship training, and 12,000-16,000 hours of patient care hours required of physicians.
- KAOM does not believe APRN education prepares them for independent practice as a “primary care provider”. (Page 4, lines 13 and 14)
- KAOM does not believe APRN education is adequate to substitute for a physician’s signature on “*certification, verification, affidavit, or endorsement*” (page 6, lines 7-11)

It should be noted that similar legislation was defeated in Florida, Nebraska, and Utah.

In 2014, along with the Kansas Medical Society, the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, and APRNs, KAOM participated in a task force to discuss the concerns expressed by APRNs regarding collaborative agreements. While no specifics came out of the numerous meetings, all of those at the table concluded it was time to revisit the statutes and regulations governing collaborative arrangements between physicians and APRNs.

KAOM and KMS have successfully worked with physician assistants to address similar concerns as expressed by APRNs. KAOM remains willing to continue working with APRNs to address their concerns. However, SB 69 is not the answer.

Thank you.