

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Sen. Gene Suellentrop, Chair, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

I am writing to support licensing of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in the state of Kansas. I am a cardiothoracic anesthesiologist at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

I have been exposed to CAAs at two different locations and have had nothing but positive interactions with them. As a resident rotating at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO, I had my first exposure to CAAs. I was very impressed with their medical knowledge, clinical abilities, and ability to work well in the Anesthesia Care Team model. During my first few days, I did not even realize that they were CAAs as I thought they were CRNAs. After discussing their education pathways to becoming a CAA, I was very impressed with their education, medical knowledge, and their work ethic.

During my fellowship at the University of Florida, I spent many nights moonlighting as a staff anesthesiologist and supervised many rooms staffed by CAAs. They were always very professional, dedicated, and able to provide high level care in the operating rooms. The CAAs at UF were equally as competent as the nurse anesthetists and worked well with the physicians, CRNA's, and anesthesiology residents.

CAAs in my experience are well trained, extremely competent in delivering safe anesthesia care, and able to work well in the ACT model. I strongly support CAA licensure in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Mark Simpsen, M.D.