



KANSAS SOCIETY
OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

**Remarks Concerning Health Care Provider COVID Liability Protections
House Committee on Judiciary
May 13, 2020**

Dear Chairman Patton and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists (KSA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments requesting your support of language presented to you by the Kansas Medical Society regarding health care provider COVID liability protections.

The KSA is a state component society of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, an educational, research and scientific association of physicians organized in 1905 to raise and maintain the standards of the medical practice of anesthesiology and improve the care of the patient. KSA serves these functions in the state of Kansas and is the lead advocate for patient safety and physician-led anesthesia care. Our nearly 400 members across Kansas span the spectrum from medical students, to physicians in training, to practicing anesthesiologists and retired physicians.

During this pandemic the health care community has risen to the demands requested of it and provided health care to many Americans who have been affected by the COVID virus. The effects of this public health crisis have placed far reaching burdens on our health care providers and our medical resources. We have quickly learned how to adjust how we live, communicate and work.

It is our request that during this crisis, health care providers acting in good faith should not have their best medical judgment and their decisions be threatened with unreasonable legal liability. In addition, many health care providers have been asked to provide care that might not be within their specialties to help fight the spread of the virus and to help those already stricken with it.

Furthermore, many routine medical procedures, treatments and care have been delayed in order to help stop the spread of the virus and to preserve necessary personal protection equipment for those providers caring for the patients already infected with the virus or for the care of future infected patients. It is important that we provide some sort of assurances that health care providers won't be civilly penalized for making those decisions to delay care based upon their best intentions to help society as a whole.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important issue and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, Dr. Jeremy Cook, Doug Smith or Larrie Ann Brown.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aaron LacKamp, President, KSA

Cc: Dr Jeremy Cook, President Elect, KSA
Doug Smith, Legislative Consultant, KSA
Larrie Ann Brown, Legislative Consultant, KSA