

APRN Scope of Practice Expansion Bill Threatens Safety of Patients – Speak Out for your Patients and Specialty

The 2014 Legislative session is around the corner. You may recall during the 2013 Legislative session, the APRNs introduced a bill (HB 2251) which would dissolve the collaborative practice agreement between a physician and an APRN. The bill did not advance but the bill is getting attention for the 2014 Legislative session. This proposal eliminates any requirement that APRNs work with physician supervision or collaboration, and would allow nurses to practice medicine and surgery without any statutory limitation on the functions they could perform. The state chapter of Americans for Prosperity (AFP)—a conservative national advocacy group focused on economic policy – has decided to support the advanced practice nurses in their bid for independent practice authority.

KAFP will work collaboratively with Kansas Medical Society and others to oppose this bill. “Only physicians have the education, expertise, and experience necessary to ensure the highest quality of care for patients,” states Carolyn Gaughan, CAE, Executive Director. “The physician-patient relationship is the very core of medicine, and we will work to keep it that way.” To that end, KAFP is developing talking points and will contact members who are constituents of key legislators to contact their legislators and discuss the issues with them.

We don’t fully understand AFP’s reasons for involvement but we view it as a possible game changer. Please watch for e-mail on the issue and speak to your legislators if contacted to do so. Your voice can make a difference!

Please help us by contacting the legislator in your area and express your support for laws and regulations protecting patient safety. You may find your legislators [here](#). For more information contact Carolyn Gaughan @ kafp@kafponline.org.