



February 21, 2022

The Honorable Richard Hilderbrand
Senate Majority Whip and Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas State Legislature
300 SW 10th St, Room 445-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Senate Bill 454 – Support

Dear Chair Hilderbrand:

The Alliance for Connected Care (the Alliance) is an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating the delivery of high-quality care using connected care technology. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, health systems and technology innovators, and our Advisory Board includes more than 40 patient and provider groups.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 454, which would amend the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) authorized scope of practice to permit the prescribing of controlled substances without a supervising physician. This bill would help to eliminate barriers such as collaborative practice agreements with a supervising physician and grant full practice authority to improve access to care for Kansas patients.

The Alliance believes that APRNs should be able to perform at the top of their licenses in order to expand access and eliminate barriers to health care. As a telehealth advocacy organization, the Alliance believes APRNs are an essential component to expanding access to care through the use of telehealth. This is especially important for patients who live in rural or underserved communities or in provider shortage areas and therefore may not have access to services they need where they reside. APRNs have also been critical to expanding access to care and filling gaps in the health care workforce throughout the pandemic.

Kansas was one of several states that temporarily waived state-mandated contract agreements on APRNs during the pandemic to free up our APRN workforce to focus on serving COVID-19 patients. Many states have had those waivers in place for over a year. Now that Kansas has had a chance to “test-drive” this policy during a crisis, it is time to get rid of unnecessary regulation that stands in the way of patients and health care.

Allowing APRNs to practice at the top of their licenses means allowing them to use all of their education and training to care for patients. Removing these restrictions on APRNs would increase consumer access to health care, address persisting barriers to care for vulnerable populations and/or patients living in provider shortage areas, and reduce unnecessary health care costs.

We hope the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare will support Senate Bill 454. Thank you for your consideration - we look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Casey Osgood at 203-536-5865 or casey.osgood@connectwithcare.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista Drobac".

Krista Drobac
Executive Director
Alliance for Connected Care