ORTHOPAEDIC & SPINE CENTER OF THE ROCKIES

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Licensure Unit
Attn: Technical Review Committee
PO Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

Attn: Technical Review Committee, Board of Health, and Dr. Anthone

My name is Dr. Kirk Kindsfater, and I am an Orthopedic surgeon in Colorado. Although Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs) are licensed to practice in Colorado, many institutions do not utilize AAs due to barriers in efficiency and consequently, cost containment.

As a surgeon who has performed more than 25, 000 hip and knee replacement surgeries, the time it would take to stagger surgical case starts to accommodate the medical direction requirements for AAs would distract from our efficiency; and ultimately, the quality of patient care. Time in the operating room garners a cost to the facility and to the patient. In an institution that values efficiency, quality, and cost-effective care, AAs are a nonfactor.

The future of healthcare in the United States is dependent on the rigorous pursuit of efficiency and cost reduction, while maintaining high rigor for quality and safety. I recommend against the licensure of AAs in Nebraska. The risk of driving out cost-effective and proven guardians of safety in CRNAs is too great and the ability to utilize AAs too little.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and safety of the patients of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Kirk Kindsfater, M.D.

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