



MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Sen. Jeff Kruse, Co-Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

From: Gwen Dayton, JD, OMA

Date: April 1, 2013

Re: Support of SB 630 - Relating to anesthesiologist assistants

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-chair Kruse, members of the committee, the OMA is pleased to submit testimony in favor of SB 630.

This bill establishes a process to license anesthesiology assistants. Anesthesiology Assistants perform an important role in the provision of anesthesiology care in Oregon. As Oregon faces an increasing physician shortage as well as an aging physician population, Anesthesiology Assistants can serve as critical physician extenders. But, it is important that they be well trained and supervised. SB 630 requires appropriate supervision by a qualified anesthesiologist, and Anesthesiology Assistants would be limited in their scope of practice to the duties and responsibilities delegated to them by their supervising anesthesiologist and as consistent with their facility's medical staff bylaws and rules. This important combination of supervision and appropriate scope of practice ensures that patients will receive safe, quality care.

Oregon would not be alone in licensing anesthesiology assistants. Anesthesiology Assistants now practice in 18 states, including Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Missouri, Florida, North Carolina and others.

We urge your support for this bill.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 7,500 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.