



February 13, 2013

The Honorable Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
900 Court St. NE, S-413
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Monnes-Anderson,

On behalf of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon (OPSO) and the over 700 osteopathic physicians in the state, I am writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 210. Among the expanded scope of services, this legislation would allow certified registered nurse anesthetists to determine and administer anesthesia plans and provide post anesthesia care without collaboration with a physician. This bill removes current oversight without requiring any additional training.

Too often, scope of practice issues are defined as a turf battle between physicians and other groups. Osteopathic physicians have a unique perspective as the osteopathic medical training programs encourage a team-based approach to healthcare with a broad view. Osteopathic training programs focus on primary care with a “whole person” approach to healthcare and that philosophy transcends into all aspects of patient care. In treating the patient first, there is no turf to protect, just the patient. OPSO does not oppose scope of practice increases for non-physician clinicians, but we do oppose expanded scope, without a comprehensive consideration of how patient care will be improved and safety will be protected.

OPSO agrees that certified registered nurse anesthetists play a key role in our healthcare system and that collaboration among healthcare providers is critical as we look to improve our healthcare system and increase access to care. Simply removing oversight provisions with closely examining the necessary training for specific services puts patient safety at risk. Physician oversight exists to protect the safety of Oregon citizens.

Medical school training differs significantly from nurse practitioners and we believe we should take a comprehensive look at the minimum training requirements that are necessary to protect the safety of Oregon citizens. While we oppose SB 210, we would welcome an opportunity to explore options for increasing patient access to care, and allowing all providers to safely practice at the top of their license.

Sincerely,

David Walls
Executive Director