



Testimony in Support of SB 210
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
February 14th, 2013

Submitted by: Sarah Baessler
Director of Health Policy and Government Relations
Oregon Nurses Association

The Oregon Nurses Association supports SB 210, which clarifies existing statute regarding authority of CRNAs to practice in an office setting.

CRNAs currently practice in a variety of settings where anesthesia and analgesia are present. Common practice settings include hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and some office settings such as dental offices, or podiatrists offices.

Current statute is silent on authority of CRNAs to practice in office settings.

As Advanced Practice Nurses, CRNAs provide vital services to the patients and communities they serve, and are a critical component of our health care workforce.

Clarifying the existing practice of CRNAs is consistent with recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine in their Report on the *Future of Nursing*. This report calls on policy makers to lift barriers that prevent nurses—especially advanced practice nurses like CRNAs—from practicing to the full extent of their training and education.

In research published in *Health Affairs*, no difference was found in the outcomes of patients treated by CRNAs practicing independently and physician anesthesiologists, indicating that CRNAs provide safe patient care.

In an era of health care reform when more people will have access to care, ONA supports policies that enable health professionals to best meet the needs of the populations across all practice settings, when consistent with the training and education of each group of licensed providers.