



**ORANA**  
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

February 11, 2015

Oregon Senate  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 283

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ORANA), Oregon's professional organization for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), we write today in support of SB 283, which provides Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) title protection.

ORANA recognizes that the term APRN is fast becoming the national standard for recognizing an advance level of Registered Nurse licensure and practice like that of CRNAs. By way of background, becoming a CRNA requires licensure as a Registered Nurse, at least one year of acute care experience as a Registered Nurse, for example in an intensive care unit or emergency room, followed by the successful completion of an accredited nurse anesthesia education program and the national certification examination. Currently, CRNAs must obtain a graduate degree at least at the Master's level. All students entering a nursing anesthesia program on or after January 1, 2022 will be required to graduate with a doctoral degree.

ORANA understands that the title APRN will serve as an umbrella title that encompasses CRNAs, as well as Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Nurse Practitioners. In our view, title protection will help prevent confusion among patients by clarifying who is providing their care, and by informing patients that the APRN possesses advanced education, knowledge and skills to provide that care. This clarification will be particularly helpful to those who move to Oregon from an area already protecting and recognizing the APRN title.

Oregon is in the minority of states that do not provide APRN title protection. Currently, over 30 states, along with the District of Columbia, have already implemented statutes providing some form of APRN title protection. One universally recognized title would foster uniform recognition across jurisdictions. Because APRNs are playing a major role in healthcare reform in Oregon as well as nationwide, APRN title protection will be an important accomplishment for the Oregon Legislature on behalf of all Oregonians.



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In closing, ORANA whole-heartedly supports SB 283 and thanks the Health Care Committee for its consideration of APRN title protection on behalf of Oregon's citizens.

Sincerely,

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