

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

2/18/15

Re: Oregon House Bill (HB) 2295: Licensing of Anesthesiologist Assistants

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

As a practicing Medical Doctor at, Providence Milwaukie Hospital, I am writing this letter **in opposition of HB 2295**, which proposes licensure for "Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs)" in Oregon.

This legislation will **put the lives of Oregonians at risk by replacing much more highly qualified Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and Anesthesiologists, with AAs, who by their limited scope of practice are unable to operate independently in the fast-paced environment of the operating room.** The proven track record of our established model of care makes the patient experience safer, more accessible and less expensive than the dangerous proposal outlined in HB 2295.

**Because CRNAs are trained to operate independently, more than 80% of Oregon's rural communities are served by them.** HB 2295 will limit access to that medical care.

My patients' physical safety and emotional well-being are critical to their health-care outcomes. I can not trust an "assistant" watching over them during critical moments of surgery. There are many times when an Anesthesiologist is not immediately available to direct their work or intervene in an emergency.

The collaborative Anesthesiologist/CRNA model currently employed in Oregon provides a safe, accessible, and cost-effective model of care. Please don't put Oregonians at risk by changing something that works so well. **Please vote no on HB 2295.**

Very Respectfully,



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