

Dear Representative/Dr. Beuhler,

Congratulations on your recent election. When you were running for your house seat, I had the pleasure of meeting you at your campaign office in downtown Bend Oregon. Myself and Christina Cowgill are Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists(CRNA's) and we are part of the Government Relations for the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists(ORANA). You may recall that Christina was conferenced in on a phone call during our meeting. Our conversation covered many topics regarding health care in Oregon and also Anesthesiology Assistants(AA's). Christina and I spoke with you in detail about AA's and their role in providing anesthesia. At that time of our meeting you indicated you were not supportive of an AA Bill.

In the last Oregon legislative session the AA bill was defeated. Your predecessor, Jason Conger and Senator Tim Knopp voted against this bill. Here's why:

1. Scope of Practice. The proposed bill does not have a delineated scope of practice for AAs compared to the 2013 bill which had a delineated scope. The Oregon Board of Medicine(BOM) may adopt rules establishing the services an AA may perform.
2. Supervision. The proposed bill also does not define supervision. Again, the BOM is authorized to adopt rules which include requirements for supervising an AA.
3. Supervision Ratio. An anesthesiologist who is not part of an anesthesiologist organization may supervise only four or fewer AAs at any one time. There doesn't appear to be any limitations for anesthesiologist organizations. We have seen other states that essentially allow for another supervising anesthesiologist who is part of the same group as the main supervising anesthesiologist. In the 2013 bill, there was clearer language stating that an anesthesiologist could only supervise 4 or fewer AAs.
4. Current Anesthesia positions for CRNA's are filled and there is a CRNA training program at OHSU and these graduating CRNA's are having to leave the state to find employment.
5. Oregon is a rural state and all rural anesthesia positions are filled solely by independent practicing CRNA's including the St. Charles Healthcare hospitals in Prineville and Madras.

Thank you for voting "No" against HB 2295.

ORANA appreciates your support in Bills maintaining the high quality medical care that Oregonians receive.

My best,
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