

Hello Sandy,

My name is Mauri Traylor and I am a Certified Register Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) writing to you to share my thoughts and concerns about HB 2295. I have been an independently practicing CRNA for 18 years, 15 years of that time in Oregon. I have been the Lead CRNA in my anesthesia department for over 8 years and have been responsible for the hiring of new CRNA employees. Truly I am at a loss when I consider an idea like the introduction of Anesthesia Assistants, especially to a state such as Oregon, as being truly beneficial to health care.

I have never had a problem with hiring adequate numbers of highly skilled CRNAs when I needed to for staffing. I attend our state conferences and talk to many CRNAs who are available for work, including the new CRNAs graduating from our own state's OHSU program. Never have I been aware of a situation where filling anesthesia provider positions have been difficult to accomplish, except for perhaps occasionally the more rural independent positions requiring 27/7 call.

CRNAs are an extremely safe, skilled, proven anesthesia provider who are already working many places, especially in Oregon, in an independent capacity. We also work in in team models with anesthesiologists or as independent providers alongside anesthesiologists. It is well known that the most cost-effective model for anesthesia services is a CRNA only group model and in this era of dwindling health care dollars, this option is of huge importance. Anesthesia Assistants do not have the ability to legally function as an independent provider like a CRNA can. They have to be medically directed by an anesthesiologist at all times. Why would we ever create more need for higher anesthesia costs when studies have consistently shown not only the cost effectiveness of CRNAs, but also the the quality and safe care that they provide?

Clearly I am passionate about this topic. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration and sharing of my message with Chair Mitch Greenlick and the members of the House Committee on Health Care.

Respectfully,

Mauri Traylor, CRNA MSN