Dear Member of the House Health Care Committee-

There are several moments in life that you can never forget. A first kiss (Nick, on a black leather couch in my parent's basement), getting into college (Go, Cougars!), and a visit to the Pacific Northwest. Two years ago, I spent several weeks in Oregon to visit my uncle and his family. It didn't take long at all for me to fall in love with the area. We spent a sunny day at the Portland Rose Garden, a rainy day at Voodoo Doughnuts, and a breathtaking day hiking Multnomah falls. Before I boarded a plane back to St. Louis, I promised myself I would live in Oregon one day.

Currently, I am an Anesthesiologist Assistant student in Denver, Colorado. The program is rigorous, but rewarding. Today I managed airways and anesthetics for three patients in the OR, then ran across campus for Cardiovascular Physiology and Dissection lab. Our training is comprehensive, difficult, and truly incredible. I am so proud of the work I am doing today. And even more excited to see what new techniques I will learn tomorrow.

There are thirteen of us in my class. All thirteen took biochemistry, organic chemistry, physics, and all other pre-medical coursework. We took the MCAT and had an average undergraduate GPA of 3.7. We are smart, capable, and team players. By the end of the program, we will have over 2,700 clinical hours of anesthesia instruction at various hospitals across the nation. I hate giving you these numbers and statistics, but I just want you to know that we are being molded into amazing anesthesia providers! And I know, without a doubt, that we could do wonderful work for patients in Oregon.

Please give us the opportunity to prove to you how valuable we can be. I strongly believe that patients and hospitals would benefit from our care. There is a shortage of anesthesia providers, and CRNAs and CAAs fill the same role within an anesthesia care team. Oregon is a beautiful place, and somewhere I would love to live and work in the near future.

Sincerely,

Kendra Fullmer