

Testimony in Opposition of HB 4108  
February 5, 2016  
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2015 OHSU Nurse Anesthesia Graduate

Chair Greenlick and member of the Committee:

I write to you today in opposition to HB4108: Anesthesiologists Assistants, perhaps from quite a unique perspective. I had been given an opportunity to work with Oregon Anesthesiology Group (OAG). OAG has been providing anesthesia in Oregon since 1989 using only physician anesthesiologists. They have never utilized CRNAs. Last year, they decided to create the team anesthesia approach using CRNAs. This would have been a fantastic opportunity for me and other recent graduates from OHSU.

After four and a half years in the intensive care department of Providence St. Vincent's Hospital I started graduate school at OHSU in the nurse anesthesia program. I also have a business degree from Oregon State University and a nursing degree from OHSU. My family and my husband's family live in and around the Portland area. My goal, upon graduation, was to continue to live and work in the Portland area. Both of my children are in school in Oregon and my husband works in Beaverton. As graduation day approached, and since the job market was extremely tight for CRNAs in Oregon, I began exploring work possibilities outside of Oregon.

It was at this challenging time that I learned of a new exciting opportunity with OAG. OAG was advertising nationally for CRNA applicants. They ran ads on GasWork, the most highly used anesthesia job search tools.

It was extremely intimidating to consider working for a group *where I would be one of the FIRST CRNAs to join the group*. However, I was encouraged to apply by my program director at OHSU saying I would be the perfect person. She thought my maturity and my interpersonal skills would be a good fit. After deliberate consideration, I decided to apply.

The application process was not easy. The paperwork and letters of recommendation were above and beyond what other companies require of applicants. But my hard work paid off when I was contacted by the group in the fall of 2014. The initial interview was long and arduous but a week later I was told I had made it to the next level and would be interviewed by the chief physician anesthesiologist of the facility at Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center.

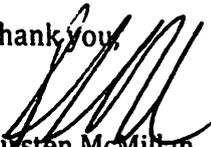
The first week of December 2014, after a second lengthy interview, it was apparent that my addition to the team would be a great fit. I wholeheartedly agreed. I was offered a position and I began to imagine my future in this new role. And most importantly, I would not have to pack up my entire family and myself and leave Oregon to find work.

However, the job never materialized. Almost 90 days later I still had no start date. I was told repeatedly that "the wrinkles were being ironed out." I ended up taking a different job.

In my opinion, the workforce issues do not exist and there are plenty of CRNA's seeking employment in Oregon. Opportunities for CRNA's will only further be limited if AA's were to be licensed in Oregon. Please oppose HB4108

Oregon graduates deserve job opportunities before we create new jobs.

Thank you,



Kirsten McMillan