

May 15th, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE TESTIMONY

Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson, Chair

Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2103, Permits licensed nurse practitioners to perform vasectomies.

POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Senator Monnes-Anderson, Senator Kruse and other distinguished committee members:
As a physician, I oppose HB 2103 and I urge you to vote no for the following reasons:

1. HB- 2103 has immense safety concerns

This bill underestimates the importance of training and dismisses potential complications and problems that would occur with limited training. Most urologists would agree that performing a vasectomy is not an “easy” procedure. In addition, a Nurse Practitioner does not have the breadth of training or experience to follow up his or her own surgical procedures, to know when a complication needs to be addressed, or how to do so appropriately. It doesn't make sense to let less qualified providers do a procedure because it "looks easy" - it makes sense to have the most qualified professionals, physicians, do procedures that require expert knowledge of anatomy, surgical skills, and proper surgical follow-up.

2. HB 3355 Recommended Training is Inadequate

Midlevels are an excellent addition to a practice if you can figure out how to utilize their medical training without replacing the doctor. In a practice with multiple MDs, they could assist in surgery and help with hospital rounds. This would help keep the doctor in the office seeing patients, making sure patients get to see the urologist for the most timely and effective care.

Medical residents are supervised by attending physicians and need to perform several vasectomies on patients before they are permitted to perform these independently. In addition, if midlevels need this type of training to perform vasectomies there would be great investment of time to supervise them when the physician can simply do it themselves.

If you compare education and training, it is clear that NP's do not have the level of experience as a trained Urologist.

- NP's have a bachelor's degree in Nursing and complete 1-2 years of additional training to receive their NP degree.

- MD/DOs have 4 years of post-graduate training and go on to a minimum 5 year urology residency.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the health of all Oregon residents.

Sincerely,

Joy Skaug, MD