

May 16th, 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: NO!!!!!!!

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.

This bill grossly underestimates the importance of training needed to practice medicine and perform safe surgery.

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are not physicians. They claim that it is in their scope of training, but a QUICK GOOGLE SEARCH demonstrates the proliferation of online NP schools where a degree can be earned with minuscule in-person training in less than two years with no physician oversight ever.

Once credentialed, NPs are governed by a nursing board, again with no medical oversight.

To practice urology, physicians undergo 4 years of post-graduate training and go on to a minimum 5 year urology residency.

This overreach beyond NP scope of practice is ridiculous and dangerous. While I appreciate the difficulties of filling shortages and patient access, vasectomies are not emergent and should be done by physicians training to do them in order to minimize complications for this elective surgery. NP's should not be performing surgery/procedures.

For your own family, who would you trust with a scalpel?

In the interest of patient safety, I urge you to vote No.

Sincerely,

Julie Hicks, DO