



Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Healthcare,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. I am the President of The Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists (OSA), which is a group comprised of over 600 physicians who are working to uphold the highest standards of anesthesia care and patient advocacy by promoting patient safety, research, education, and innovation in anesthesia.

The Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists supports the critical goal of ensuring that all Oregonians have access to needed medical care. However, we believe that the perceived benefit of expanding the role of a nurse practitioner to perform a surgical procedure would be outweighed by the potential harm to a patient. Due to this potential harm and inherent risk to patient safety, the OSA is **opposed to HB 2103, which would expand the role of a nurse practitioner to perform a vasectomy, a surgical procedure.**

While a vasectomy could be considered a minor surgical procedure, it is not free of risk to the patient. This type of surgery can be complicated by significant pain, infection and blood clots.

Every physician that can perform surgical procedures, including a vasectomy, receives specialized training by a surgeon. This training not only includes how to perform the surgery, but also a clear understanding of steps that can be taken to minimize risk to the patient. For even minor procedures, physicians learn how specific medications and diseases, like diabetes, can increase risks to a patient. This level of care requires the specialized knowledge of a physician, which is gained through the four years of medical school, followed by at least three years of intensive specialized training as a resident physician. **This training does not occur with nurse practitioners.**

Due to the potential for increased risk to a patient, the **OSA opposes the proposed expansion of the role of nurse practitioners to perform a vasectomy.** Only physicians have the required specialized training to safely perform a vasectomy. Should HB 2103 pass, it is our belief patient safety will be at risk.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Mitchell", with a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Mitchell
President
Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists