



Harney District Hospital

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March 4, 2019

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Health Care Committee
900 Court St. NE, S-211
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 136

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson,

We are writing to ask you to support the passage of Senate Bill 136 that allows Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA's) to have full prescribing authority.

We use CRNA's at our hospital and one of them has invested significant time and energy becoming trained in pain management and establishing a pain clinic. He recently received his national certification in Non-Surgical Pain Management. This service is filling an important need in our community and provides us as providers an additional avenue to help our patients who suffer with chronic pain. However, without a full-scope of prescribing privileges he is limited in his ability to provide these patients with the long term help they are seeking. Passage of this bill will greatly reduce our burden and help him to be more effective in the treatment of his patients.

Burns is in a fairly isolated part of our state. If there are services we are unable to offer, our patients have to drive either two hours to Bend or three hours to Boise. This is a great hardship on them and their families – especially in the winter when road conditions are treacherous. Our CRNA is increasingly getting more and more referrals to manage patients who have chronic pain. These patients are often receiving high doses of narcotics. His practice is focused on finding alternative ways for them to manage their pain, but he still needs the option of using medications to reduce dependency.

Again we appreciate you considering this bill and ask for your support. Allowing CRNA's to have full prescribing authority will ease the current burden on our providers and greatly benefit the lives of many rural Oregonian's and allow frontier hospitals throughout Oregon to provide better care to their patients in their local setting.

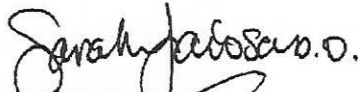
Sincerely,



Dan Grigg, Chief Executive Officer

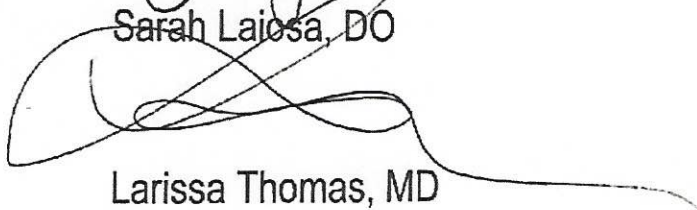


Heidi Vanyo, MD, Chief of Staff

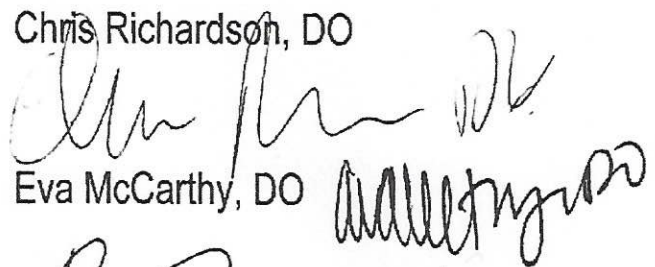


Sarah Laiosa, DO

Chris Richardson, DO



Larissa Thomas, MD



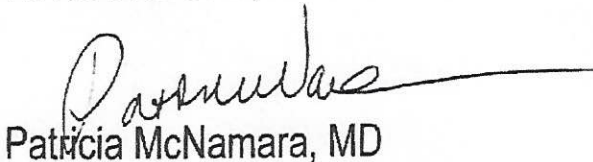
Eva McCarthy, DO



Kevin Johnston, MD



Harry Reynolds, MD



Patricia McNamara, MD