



March 1, 2019

Oregon Senate  
Committee on Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 136: Removes 10-day supply limitation of prescriptions issued by certified registered nurse anesthetists.

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

I am the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Peace Harbor Medical Center (PHMC) in Florence Oregon. PHMC is a 21-bed, Critical Access Hospital (CAH), and a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)- only practice. Whenever there is restrictions to any Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) scope of practice, it is usually the rural communities that are most affected. This is true to the current law that applies to CRNAs with regards to prescription privileges which is rigid, unnecessary, and could prove to be a costly barrier to rural Oregon. CRNAs now have the ability to assist with Medication Assisted Treatments (MATs) in the passing of HR 6 in 2018. The Oregon Opioid Initiative's strategic framework focuses on improving patient care and safety by reducing harms to people taking opioids by supporting MATs and naloxone access. It seems reasonable to say that CRNAs who have prescription privileges, which is monitored by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), could provide value to the opioid epidemic regarding access, yet the current statute restricts this to where it is needed most - rural Oregon.

PHMC is seeking to employ a Nonsurgical Pain Management CRNA to support the community for those that are in chronic pain. The CRNAs are expected to help alleviate patient suffering, wean patients off of their opioids, and manage their pain medications. Putting a 10-day limitation to prescriptions does not even allow the CRNAs the ability to prescribe non-opioid medications, much less wean them off of their opioids. This is not an efficient delivery system, and the CRNAs should have the same practice rights as any other APRN. Again, it is rural Oregon that is impacted by limiting an APRNs scope of practice. I urge you to please **SUPPORT SB 136** and allow CRNAs full prescription authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ron Shearer, MD  
CMO Peace Harbor Medical Center  
Florence, Oregon