

Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is David Little and I am a student in the South University Anesthesiology Assistant program in Savannah, GA. I went to Georgia Southern University for a biology degree and finished all of my pre-medical curriculum there, but knew after shadowing a few local doctors that I did not want to pursue medical school. I then found out about the anesthesiologist assistant program and was immediately drawn to the profession. My mother and sister are both nurse practitioners and they helped me get into contact with a few certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and certified anesthesiologist assistants (C-AA). I shadowed and worked with both for almost a year and realized that they fill the exact same roles in the anesthesia care team. I am still seeing this trend in my schooling today. Although the only drawback in this profession that I can see so far is the limited states we can work in. I have always dreamed of moving out to Oregon and starting my career closer to my family in Washington State and be closer to mountains, rivers, and people of the west coast.

C-AA practice within the anesthesia care team and reduce the patient risk during surgery. Having two very well-trained healthcare providers with this model provides the greatest amount of patient safety for every procedure. This model can also save hospitals hundreds of thousands of dollars because patients are guaranteed to receive the highest quality of care while increasing the amount of patients that can be seen per day.

C-AA are also required to train for 28 months in extremely demanding and rigorous curriculum with over 600 hours of classes and labs. While taking part in more than 2,600 hours of clinical rotations at anesthesiology departments that accept C-AA and students. During this time in school more than 600 anesthetics are administered for all types of surgeries. If more states allowed C-AA to practice the quality of care for patients would increase and the price of healthcare in this country would decrease.

I have always dreamed of moving out west after finishing school and being closer to my family in Washington State. I have also heard so many amazing things about Oregon that it seems like a great place to live, work, and play. I am very active outdoors and aspire to hike the pacific crest trail one day. I have done a lot of sections of the Appalachian trail on this side of the country, because I have lived in Georgia my entire life. And unless the legislation is changed I will only be able to visit Oregon during vacations.

Thank you for your consideration in the future of this profession and the future of my life and career,

David "Trey" Little Jr.

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