

Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is Jacob Spilker and I am currently a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) at Children's Hospital of Colorado. The reason I am writing you today in support of HB 4108, is because I would like to live and work in Oregon, but I am not able to since CAAs are not licensed in Oregon.

I fulfilled a pre-medical curriculum for a bachelor's degree, took the GRE, and finished a masters program in anesthesia at NOVA Southeastern University of Fort Lauderdale. Now I have been working at the Children's Hospital of Colorado for three years as a CAA. CAAs practice within a anesthesia care team model, which ensures an anesthesiologist is present during the care of every patient. This model reduces patient risk and overall provides a better outcome for the patient. When working in one of the top five pediatric hospitals in the nation, I'm 100% positive the anesthesia care team model is the best practice to provide for these children and being a parent of four children myself, I would want my child being taken care of using this model.

There is a shortage of anesthesia providers in the nation and CRNAs and CAAs fill the same roles within the anesthesia care team.

Here are a few facts of CAAs:

1. CAAs are highly skilled health professionals who work under the direction of licensed anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care plans.
2. Before entering an AA training program, a student must complete a bachelor's degree with prerequisites typical of pre-med coursework.
3. AA master's-level students train for 24 to 28 months in anesthesiology departments of university medical schools that have anesthesiology residency programs.
4. CAA training averages over 600 hours of classroom/laboratory education, 2,600 hours of clinical anesthesia education, and more than 600 anesthetics administered for all types of surgery.

Again I would really like the opportunity to work and live in the beautiful state of Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacob Spilker CAA, MMSc
Children's Hospital Colorado
720-777-0514 work
435-229-0252 cell