

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Support HB 4108
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:23:42 PM

Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Amanda Womack and I am currently a second year Anesthesiologist Assistant student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. When I heard that Oregon was considering legislature allowing CAA's to practice, I was very excited. The time is fast approaching for me to consider where I will work when I graduate and the possibility of Oregon is outstanding. I have taken many family trips all over the Northwestern part of the country and I have always said if I could choose anywhere to live it would be there. I simply love the weather and the landscape and how friendly the people are. Sadly, moving to Oregon would not be possible without the support of HB 4108.

As you may or may not know, Anesthesiologist Assistants have been in practice since the 1970's, so we are a long standing profession of competent care providers. Our programs require a bachelors degree complete with classes that meet the prerequisites for medical school. I myself have a bachelors degree in biology from the University of Central Oklahoma and had to complete the MCAT for my admission into UMKC. Programs can range in length from 24-30 months, my particular program is 30, and we graduate with a Masters in Anesthesia. Upon completing my program I will have over 600 hours of classroom education and over 2,600 hours of clinical experience.

Through my clinical rotations I have had the chance to see up close how much good a Care Team model is not only for the facility, but most certainly for the patient. Utilizing a care team streamlines the process of the day as every member of the team has their assigned role. When it comes to patient safety, a care team provides more minds in the same room collaborating and caring for each patient as an individual. Everyone has heard the expression "two heads are better then one" and that is what a care team provides. It reduces the chance of something being "overlooked" and ultimately provides a safer approach to anesthesia care. Above all else CAA's believe that anesthesia is the practice of medicine, so we believe in direct supervision by a licensed anesthesiologist.

Many people are familiar with nurse anesthetists (CRNA) and the role they play in an anesthesia care team, but some are unaware that a certified anesthesiologist assistant (CAA) can provide the same level of care. The patient population needing anesthesia care is also rising. Longer lives and better access to medicine means more surgery. There simply are not enough anesthesiologists to cover the demand. By adopting a care team model, there can be more providers working at a more favorable price. Allowing CAA's to practice in your state will also bring more revenue as we will purchase property and pay taxes. Anesthesia care teams

are the future of medicine, and again I have seen how effective they are.

Let me finish by thanking you for your time and your service to our government. I look forward to the day when I can live in your lovely state and practice my profession. Please support HB 1408.

Sincerely,

Amanda Womack SAA
UMKC class of 2017