

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Please Support Oregon House Bill 4108  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:39:44 PM

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Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Alexa Anderson and I am a recent graduate of Case Western Reserve University's Anesthesiologist Assistant program. Born in Seattle and raised between Seattle and Portland, I attended Oregon Health and Science University and Portland State from 2009 - 2012 to receive my master's in public health and had an amazing experience. In an effort to expand my clinical knowledge base I left to seek education in Houston but have always wanted to return to the northwest, particularly Portland. However, the particular career path I have taken is not currently licensed to work in the great state of Oregon. Although, I can understand the hesitancy to add another health care provider that many are not familiar with, I can assure you anesthesiologist assistants are well worth the consideration to bring to Oregon with House Bill 4108.

Having received my Bachelor's of Science, a Master's of Public Health and completing the anesthesiologist assistant program I have completed a pre-med curriculum, the MCAT, and the GRE as have my colleagues. Many of whom, including myself, were accepted into medical school but decided to go another route in health care. We come from a variety of backgrounds, not unlike nurses or physicians, but the programs screen every student to make sure we are prepared for the rigorous 600+ didactic educational hours we receive throughout our 24-28 month programs. Although some opposition will say our lack of clinical experience before the program hinders us from being effective providers, in reality many of us have had clinical experience beforehand and for those who have not we receive plenty of experience in the 2600+ hours of required clinical work that includes medical specialty rotations, trauma rotations and regional administration. This assures the national board of certified anesthesiologist assistants that each student has exposure to a variety of cases, patients and situations to be prepared for any situation they may experience in practice, regardless of their clinical background. Just because a doctor or a nurse was not clinically involved prior to their formal education does not mean they will do poorly once they have graduated as formal education's job is to prepare them for the work field and this applies to AAs as well.

With a steady increase in the number of people needing surgery and the types of surgeries available, the demand for anesthetic and analgesic care will only increase and many hospitals and outpatient centers are turning to the anesthesia care team (ACT) model to care for their patients as it is a safer and more effective model that even nurse anesthetists are apart of in many states. A quote from the AANA's news journal in 2009 states "The benefits of collaboration in healthcare have been linked positively with higher patient satisfaction, improved patient outcomes, enhanced nursing staff satisfaction, and decreased hospital costs." (Jones, Fitzpatrick pg.1). As a CAA I have worked along side various anesthesiologists and CRNAs without turmoil because we all have the same goal of patient safety and comfort and I'm sure the Oregon Health Care Committee would agree with the same mission.

By supporting HB 4108, you would open the doors for hospitals and medical groups to have a larger pool of prospective employees to hire from so that they have more options to fit their mission. You open up the opportunity to medical professionals, such as myself, to establish

roots in the great northwest and contribute to the community. You open the door of opportunity for your community. Another profession that the citizens of Oregon can be apart of and children and young adults can strive for with possibilities for a future educational program in the state. That is all we're asking for is the opportunity as licensed professionals to apply for jobs and work in your state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,  
Alexa Anderson, MPH, CAA