

From: [Juliette Burnham](#)
To: [ThieleCirka Sandy](#); Lindsey.Maxwell@politics.org
Subject: Support of House Bill 4108
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:06:19 PM

Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee,

I would like to request your support in behalf of the House Bill 4108. My name is Juliette Burnham and I am a practicing Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) at a trauma center in South Carolina. Upon graduation from my master's program 3 years ago, my desire was to return to the west coast for work. However, there are currently no opportunities for CAAs in Oregon. Two of my siblings and their children live California and Washington. Oregon is the precisely in the middle and allows me be closer to family. Its abundant outdoor activities (I am an avid hiker), thriving culture, and relaxed lifestyle have long appealed to me. I am passionate about practicing a team-based anesthesia approach in the ideal setting of the state of Oregon.

The educational journey to become a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) was a long, thorough, and enjoyable one for me. I started my bachelor's in Biology with a pre-med curriculum in Southern California. Due to cost of living and tuition, I relocated to Dayton, Ohio to complete my undergraduate studies. I was fortunate to have numerous opportunities discover and select my professional path. I began by shadowing physicians in a variety of specialties, then volunteered at an Emergency Room, and finally worked as a phlebotomist before classes would start for the day. As I spent more time in the hospital setting, I came to realize anesthesia was the field for me. After completing the required pre-med courses, taking the MCAT, and a rigorous interview process, I was accepted into the CAA program at Case Western Reserve University. They quickly immersed students into a perfect blend of didactic and clinical studies, with training in each totally nearly 600 hours and 2,600 hours. In addition to the general surgical settings, I completed rotations in specialties such as cardiac, obstetrics, pediatrics, and trauma.

I truly appreciate the team approach that my profession offers to patients, in providing the quality care of two well-trained professionals. Over the course of a fairly routine 12 hour shift, I work under the direction of an anesthesiologist and may encounter the following cases: a emergency cesarean section, a gun-shot victim, a child who swallowed a quarter, or a patient with a ruptured bowel. The anesthesiologist and I work together to formulate a safe and appropriate care plan for each patient. Just a few aspects of my job for the shift involve reassuring terrified parents that their child will be in good hands, getting intravenous access on patient whose veins are scarred from chemotherapy, replacing blood volume in a patient who is losing blood as fast it is infused in his body, and having a nervous patient to sit still so I can safely preform a spinal anesthetic.

During the years since graduation, I have watched my profession expand and move to

new territories to meet the growing demand of anesthesia care. There a short supply of well-trained providers and Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant are here to offer a solution. I appeal to you to support House Bill 4108. It would be a privilege and an honor for me to practice a well-balanced team approach to anesthesia in the state of Oregon.

Kind Regards,

Juliette Burnham

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant: Grand Strand Regional Medical Center