

From: [Phoebe Wong](#)
To: [ThieleCirka Sandy](#)
Subject: Oregon HB 4108 (2016)
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:24:08 PM

Dear Members of the House Health Care Committee,

I am sending you this message in regards to the legislation for Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Oregon. I am currently an Undergraduate Student from New York, studying at the University of Southern California. As a pre-health student I have been shadowing at nearby hospitals, including the ones at my school and taken the GRE exam to move forward. Having met with several Anesthesiologist and CRNAs, they have provided me with several opinions and insights that I would like to share.

Since California is also a state that does not allow CAAs to work here, many doctors feel uncertain about letting AAs work due to the fact that they know nothing about them. However when I have questioned anesthesiologists who have worked out-of-state and alongside CAAs, many have found them to be quite compatible and function just as well as CRNAs.

One anesthesiologist, even preferred to work with CAAs over CRNAs because he feels that they are just as adept, and that the only difference between the two is just the amount of political power the CRNAs hold. However he also has had dealings with which CRNAs attempted to become independent, by working without a supervising physician. Even though they know how to operate anesthetics, the anesthesiologist I shadowed claimed that there was so much more to learn in terms of understanding how and why anesthesiologist do the things they do. Which differentiates the difference between a Masters Degree and M.D.

His last comments as to why he prefers to work with CAAs, is because they will always function under the supervision of an attending Anesthesiologist. They will also never do anything outside their scope without permission, and are trained just as well as CRNAs. In terms of pay, hiring CAAs are quite beneficial to the system. When I spoke to CRNAs, they gave me no negative aspects about CAAs, but only spoke of how well a CRNA job is. As I compared the two, they were actually very similar in terms of education, with CAA programs: requiring a bachelors degree, 24-28 month masters program, and over 2,600 clinical hours.

I hope you will take my input into consideration. As Oregon has been a home to many of my friends and possibly even soon to myself. I am currently also in pursuit of becoming an CAAs and pray that Oregon may soon open up its hospital doors one day just as it has to CRNAs. I thank you so much for all of your time.

Sincerely,
Phoebe Wong