



OHIO PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DBA  
**OHIO FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
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Opponent Testimony on House Bill 224  
Expanded Scope of Practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists  
The Ohio Foot & Ankle Medical Association  
House Health Committee  
Dr. Jimelle Rumberg, Ph. D., Executive Director  
June 11, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and the members of the House Health Committee, on behalf of Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons that make up the Ohio Foot & Ankle Medical Association (OHFAMA), I would like to offer our association's continued opposition to House Bill 224, legislation that would provide an expanded scope of practice to Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in Ohio. Our association remains committed to working with this committee, the proponents of the bill and other interested parties to see if a compromise bill could be reached to address any potential existing issues.

Let me point out that our podiatric physicians and surgeons value the role CNRA's currently play in the "team approach" to treating patients in the current health care environment; and environment that has worked well for patients throughout Ohio, both in terms of access and safety. Many CNRA's that our members work with, especially in rural areas, are valued professionals who help our doctors provide the best in patient care.

However, OHFAMA strongly believes that further "definitional work" needs to be done on the current version of HB 224 that is beneficial to all parties within our care model while maintaining the utmost patient safety. Among OHFAMA's concerns with the current version of the bill are:

- HB 224 would seem to grant CRNA's many broad duties in the expansion of their scope of practice, including authority to perform and document assessments which may include ordering such things as treatments, tests and drugs for patients. The proposed bill would also allow these CRNA's to "determine whether planned anesthesia is appropriate," including granting CRNA's ordering authority for pain medications, including controlled substances. As we review the bill, a list of those allowable drugs or treatments are not defined nor are the timelines under which those functions could be performed;
- While the bill does include the terms "supervision" and "clinical function," our association strongly believes additional details on these definitions are vital in this legislation and should be

defined in the bill. For example, it does not appear there is a conclusive answer to the methodology in which a podiatric physician (or other physician) may supervise a CRNA under the bill.

On behalf of our podiatric physicians and surgeons, OHFAMA would like to thank the members of the House Health Committee for consideration of our continued concerns with HB 224. It is important to our members that I reiterate that our podiatric physicians and surgeons strongly value the contributions CNRA's make in patient care under the current care team model and we understand their profession would like additional patient care responsibilities. However, OHFAMA believes additional work needs to be done to more clearly define certain definitions and ideas proposed in the bill. As always, please feel free to contact me if you should have any further questions.