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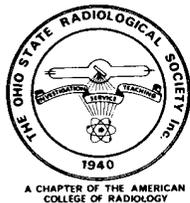
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Ohio Valley Society  
Of Plastic Surgeons

TO: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

DATE: June 11, 2019

RE: Opposition with HB 224: Expand Scope of Practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

On behalf of the above organizations, we would like to express our opposition for HB 224, legislation which will expand the scope of practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). As physician specialties who work closely and directly with CRNA's or who have been involved with allied practitioner scope of practice expansions in the past, we have concerns with the legislation as it currently stands and would like to see several issues addressed before the bill moves forward.

CRNA-supported scope expansion bills in the past have included broad authority for CRNAs to order undefined drugs, tests, treatments and fluids for patients, including pain medications. The bills have not required CRNAs to be with the patient or even present in the facility when ordering drugs. This highlights a few of the problems in their bills but is no means inclusive of all of the issues raised in regards to patient care.

Our organizations want to be part of any solution regarding issues with Ohio's current anesthesia care team model. Our primary interest is reaching a solution that is safe for the patient and ensures the continuation of the care team model, which is the best model for safe patient care. To that end, we have repeatedly asked what is the problem with Ohio's current anesthesia model of care and how are patients jeopardized under this model? As

we have yet to be provided with any evidence of how patients are adversely impacted by Ohio's current anesthesia care team model, we are concerned that legislation intended to expand CRNA scope of practice could do so at the expense of patient care.

We understand the desire of CRNAs to expand their scope of practice but patient care cannot be compromised in doing so. We urge the committee to take into consideration the comments of our fellow physicians testifying in person today and the comments of the Ohio State Medical Association and the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists and make changes to the legislation before it is voted out of committee. We recognize the urgency with wanting to pass legislation, but that should not be done at the expense of the patients all of us serve.

Thank you for letting our organizations comment on HB 224 and we look forward to engaging in the legislative process on this important issue.