

BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Dave Burke
Chair, Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Ohio Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Rm. 039
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Burke,

On behalf of Bon Secours Mercy Health, I am writing to express our support for Sub. House Bill 224 and Sub. Senate Bill 61, which addresses the practice of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

The recent adoption of compromise language in the Ohio Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee and the version of Sub. HB 224 that recently passed the Ohio House of Representatives provide a balanced approach that would enable Bon Secours Mercy Health facilities to better utilize CRNAs to enhance anesthesia patient care and operational efficiency, without creating additional burdens for our small and rural hospitals. The proposed legislation remains permissive and does not impose specific models of anesthesia care or changes in the way anesthesia is currently delivered in Ohio hospitals. We expressed concerns regarding the regulatory burdens of earlier versions of HB 224 to the Ohio Hospital Association and the compromise language in Sub. HB 224 and Sub. SB 61 directly addresses these concerns.

The compromise language adds needed clarity to the CRNA scope of practice including additional guidance regarding CRNAs' performance of vital clinical support functions. The proposed legislation achieves balance by requiring health care facilities to adopt a written policy to be established by the medical staff, nursing and pharmacy that establishes standards and procedures to be followed by CRNAs when providing delineated patient care functions. The structure of the legislation and guardrails are appropriate measures that are not burdensome mandates. Rather they reflect a reasonable approach to CRNA practice oversight that includes physicians and facility administration to provide the best possible anesthesia care to our patients.

Sub. HB 224 and Sub. SB 61 represents a common sense proposal which has the chance to advance anesthesia patient care throughout the Bon Secours Mercy Health system, and we support the compromise language presented to the committee.

Sincerely,



Wael N. Haidar, MD
Chief Clinical Officer

cc: Gene Christian, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Andrea Mazzoccoli, PhD, Chief Nursing & Quality Officer
Jon Fishpaw, Chief Government Relations Officer