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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Ohio Chapter



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Ohio Gastroenterology Society



OHIO OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION



A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY



Ohio Valley Society Of Plastic Surgeons



Columbus Medical Association

TO: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

DATE: June 18, 2019

RE: Opposition to the Substitute Bill for HB 224: Expand Scope of Practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

On behalf of the above organizations, we would like to express our opposition to the substitute bill being introduced in committee on HB 224, which will expand the scope of practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

During opponent testimony on June 11, Monica Hueckel from the Ohio State Medical Association outlined our compromise to HB 224. We also provided our comments in writing to the sponsors on key provisions we have agreed to so that CRNAs can order drugs, tests, treatments and fluids for patients before surgery and until they are discharged from recovery. We recommended the substitute bill include certain guardrails to ensure patient safety and continuity of care throughout the surgical process. Unfortunately, the substitute bill before you does NOT reflect the compromise we put forth to gain our organizations' neutrality on the bill.

The substitute bill grants authority to a facility to have a policy establishing standards and procedures for the CRNA to order drugs, tests, treatments and fluids for patients. However, it omits a key provision we put forth that the policy address a patient specific peri-operative anesthesia plan (PSPAP) containing the drugs, tests, treatments and fluids that

the CRNA could order for the particular patient. The CRNA and physician must be on-site and the supervising physician must sign off on the plan.

The substitute bill also does not include language allowing the physician to order drugs, tests, treatments and fluids for the patient if the physician determines it is in the patient's best interest. Nor does the substitute bill include a prohibition on ordering controlled substances and it authorizes the broad ordering of drugs, tests, treatments and fluids during clinical support functions after the patient has been discharged from recovery.

We remain committed to working with you to pass legislation to expand CRNA scope of practice and address the concerns raised by proponents with the current model of anesthesia care in Ohio. However, the substitute bill fails to reflect the compromise we put forth and will continue to create confusion in facilities and ultimately put patients at risk. We urge you to oppose the substitute bill at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.