

Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 52

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee — thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Substitute House Bill 52.

My name is Angela Milosh. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, or CRNA, the director of one of Ohio's nine nurse anesthesia educational programs, and a member of the Government Relations Committee for the Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists, representing more than 3,000 licensed CRNAs across the state.

As a program director, I oversee the academic and clinical preparation of critical care nurses as they transition into advanced practice roles in anesthesia. At a minimum, it takes eight years of education and experience to become a CRNA. To even apply, a candidate must hold a bachelor's degree, be a licensed registered nurse, and have at least one year — often three or more — of full-time experience caring for unstable, critically ill patients in high-acuity settings. This clinical background forms a strong foundation for anesthesia practice, sharpening the decision-making, vigilance, and resilience required to manage high-risk patients.

Once accepted into a nurse anesthesia program, students complete an intensive doctoral-level curriculum that integrates advanced coursework with extensive hands-on clinical training. Educational standards — set nationally and enforced through the accreditation process — require that CRNAs demonstrate full competence across all phases of anesthesia care: from preoperative evaluation and anesthetic planning to intraoperative management, postoperative recovery, and the recognition and management of complications. CRNAs are prepared to care for patients of all ages and health statuses, and for procedures ranging from routine outpatient surgeries to complex transplants.

It's also important to understand that CRNA education is not tied to any one anesthesia delivery model. Instead, it prepares clinicians for the full scope of anesthesia care, inside and outside the operating room — from labor epidurals and nerve blocks to emergency airway management and trauma care. After completing their doctoral program, CRNAs must pass a national certification exam and maintain ongoing competency through continuing education and periodic recertification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists. Ohio regulations require CRNAs to complete continuing education to maintain the nursing license endorsement needed for anesthesia practice. In addition to meeting these national standards and state requirements, CRNAs must also undergo a formal credentialing and privileging process at each facility where they practice, ensuring individualized oversight of their qualifications and scope at the local level.

Ohio has recognized anesthesia as part of the practice of nursing since 1919 — predating women's right to vote. While healthcare delivery has changed significantly since then, the language in the Ohio Revised Code has not kept pace. Substitute House Bill 52 modernizes outdated statutory language to better reflect how anesthesia care is delivered today. It affirms the CRNA's collaborative role with physicians, podiatrists, and qualified dentists; aligns scope of

practice language with the national standards already in place; and supports clear, consistent oversight by healthcare organizations and collaborating providers.

To be clear, this legislation does not expand the scope of CRNA practice. Rather, it updates terminology to reflect current clinical practice while preserving physician leadership and supporting the flexibility needed to meet today's workforce demands. We appreciate the collaboration of stakeholders, including the Ohio State Medical Association and the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists, in helping to craft balanced, patient-centered policy.

In summary, Substitute House Bill 52 recognizes the depth of CRNA education and training, modernizes outdated statutes, and supports Ohioans' access to safe, high-quality anesthesia care.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.