

To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, VP, Advocacy, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 11, 2025

Re: Sub-HB 52

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we write today to indicate OSMA's position on Substitute House Bill 52, regarding the scope of practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). While OSMA initially opposed the introduced version of HB 52, recognizing the important changes made in the substitute bill, we are now neutral on this legislation.

We are appreciative to Rep. Deeter for making the changes reflected in Sub-HB 52 as a result of numerous conversations with OSMA and other interested parties. It addresses many of our initial concerns, and most importantly, it maintains the team-based model of care with a physician at the head of the team and with required CRNA and physician collaboration (with the physician onsite at the facility with the CRNA and patient). It also contains additional guardrails for safety:

- Specifically identifies the healthcare settings in which a CRNA can practice;
- Clearly defines vague provisions from the introduced version of the bill;
- Requires physician order for anesthesia services;
- Ensures CRNA scope of practice must align with privileges and policies of the facility;
- Retains the ability for collaborating physicians and facilities to determine what services are in the patient's best interest; and
- Requires notification identifying who will administer anesthesia to a patient.

As this committee is well aware, OSMA views every adjustment to scope of practice through the lens of education, training and most importantly, impact on patients. We support physician lead team based approach to care, with every member of the health care team working in collaboration to provide optimal care to patients. Our membership is comprised of individuals in all physician specialties working in every practice setting in the state. Different practice environments understandably face distinct challenges and factors to consider when striving to deliver high quality patient care, and because of that, OSMA is in the unique position to give perspective on how each piece of legislation impacts the overall healthcare system and the direct impact on patients.

We appreciate all of the committee members who have engaged with us on Sub-HB 52 and will continue to ensure physician lead care is included in every scope of practice bill debated through the legislative process. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us should you have any questions.