



**Senate Health Committee
House Bill 52 Proponent Testimony
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**David Stepnick, MD, FACS
EVP Chief Physician Executive & Clinical Officer
The MetroHealth System**

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Substitute House Bill 52.

My name is David Stepnick, and I serve as the Executive Vice President, Chief Physician Executive and Clinical Officer at The MetroHealth System, a safety-net health system located in **Cuyahoga County**, which includes the City of Cleveland and its surrounding suburbs. **Founded in 1837**, MetroHealth has served Cuyahoga County longer than any other Cleveland healthcare organization. We are deeply committed to providing high-quality, accessible care to all residents of the County, regardless of their ability to pay.

MetroHealth supports HB 52 because it brings clarity and flexibility to the delivery of anesthesia care in Ohio. The bill preserves Ohio's long-standing model of physician-led care teams while modernizing the collaborative relationship between Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and their physician partners. This balanced approach respects the credentials of all practitioners and allows each facility to determine how best to meet the needs of its patients.

Anesthesia is most safely and effectively delivered through a team-based model that MetroHealth has used with great success. As health systems continue to face increasing financial pressures, tools like those provided in HB 52 will help ensure financial viability while maintaining high standards of patient care. The bill strengthens our ability to provide safe access to anesthesia services and creates a more predictable and stable regulatory environment. These changes will help us deploy our workforce more efficiently to meet patient demand across a variety of settings, including outpatient clinics, surgical centers, and emergency departments.

As a safety-net provider, MetroHealth faces ongoing workforce challenges. HB 52 helps address these challenges by aligning Ohio's laws with national standards, making our state more competitive in recruiting and retaining highly trained CRNAs. We cannot afford to lose members of our care teams to other states that have already modernized their regulatory frameworks to reflect current training and practice standards.

Ultimately, HB 52 equips health systems like MetroHealth with the flexibility and clarity needed to provide safe, effective, and efficient anesthesia care to all patients, especially those who rely on us most. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to improving health care delivery in Ohio.