

Proponent Testimony
Ohio House of Representatives
HB 191
January 24, 2018
Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses

Good morning Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the House Health committee. My name is Andrew Minton and I am the consultant for the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (OAAPN).

I want to thank Representative Gonzales for carrying this important piece of legislation that will improve patient safety and quality of care, while increasing access and cost savings.

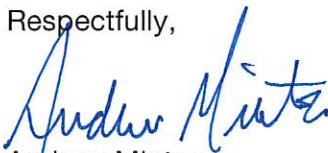
Over the last decade, healthcare has evolved immensely and continues to change at a fast pace. Patients are experiencing access to care issues, mental health problems are on the rise, the opioid epidemic continues to worsen, and a primary care shortage of over 90,000 physicians is expected by 2025. While Ohio has made some progress in removing barriers for Certified Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Certified Nurse Midwives, it has not addressed the CRNA barriers to patient care.

Although more can be done to utilize each category of APRN in Ohio to advance patient care, CRNAs are the only category to still retain a supervisory requirement. In fact, Ohio is just one of ten states that requires a CRNA to hold a supervisory agreement. Further, this bill seeks to clarify that CRNAs may order and administer necessary medications to provide anesthesia care to patients and would not give them prescriptive authority like the other categories of APRN. In fact, HB 191 would outright prohibit a CRNA from prescribing a drug for use outside the facility or setting where the CRNA provides care.

Lastly, the bill is permissive, allowing hospitals and other facilities to control the utilization of their own workforce, one that helps them keep costs under control, while improving access to care. This bill allows hospitals and other facilities to decide what model of care works best for them.

As an Association representing the over 13,000 APRNs in Ohio, OAAPN believes HB 191 would improve access to healthcare, retains the ability for facilities to control how their practitioners are utilized, and clarifies a CRNAs scope of practice. We respectfully request the committee support the passage of HB 191.

Respectfully,



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