

# American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

## Ohio Chapter

### Ohio Chapter

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November 14, 2018

Dear Members of the Ohio House Health Committee—

On behalf of the 2,900 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to offer comments on House Bill 191, sponsored by State Representative Anne Gonzales. These comments relate to the most recent substitute bill ('dash 5') being discussed by the committee.

I appreciate the work that Rep. Gonzales has done to try and bring together interested parties to reach a compromise. The 'dash 5' version of the bill makes progress compared to the *as introduced* version of HB 191. However, I believe that additional changes are needed in order to address outstanding issues from the physician community.

Many of our concerns stem from language in the HB 191 substitute bill that is vague or ambiguous. The 'dash 5' version of HB 191 provides CRNA's with undefined authority to order drugs, tests, and treatments for patients. In addition, the draft sub bill uses the term 'perianesthesia period', which is undefined in the Revised Code. The bill also allows CRNA's to perform 'clinical functions', which is also undefined. And while the substitute bill restores the supervision requirement for CRNA's, we feel that the greater detail is required to avoid confusion.

Most importantly, my members continue to question the need for such broad changes to the scope of practice for nurse anesthetists. While there has been a generally robust interested party process, supports of this legislation still have not clearly defined the problem that we are trying to solve. The current supervision structure for CRNA's has not been demonstrated to hinder practice or harm patients.

When it comes to children, we believe in the physician-led approach to care. This is paramount when it comes to pediatric surgical cases where children are being given anesthesia and other treatments before, during, and after a procedure. CRNA's play an important role in the delivery of these treatments, however a physician is ultimately responsible for the overall health of that patient.

Overall, the substitute bill moves this debate in the right direction and we will continue to participate in discussions regarding this important subject. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics