

51st House District

Portions of Butler County, including Hamilton and Fairfield, Ross Township and portions of Fairfield, Hanover and St. Clair townships

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Sara P. Carruthers
Ohio State Representative

Committees

-Behavioral Health & Recovery Supports (Chair)-
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Commissions/Councils/Boards

-Early Childhood Advisory Council-
-Ohio Arts Council-

House Bill 196 Sponsor Testimony **House Health Committee** **April 20, 2021**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to explain to you why Representative Kelly and I believe this is a necessary piece of legislation.

House Bill 196 would require all surgical assistants to be licensed by the State Medical Board of Ohio. The license would be for two years and applicants must complete continuing education, by rules adopted by the Board, in order to renew their license. There is also “grandfathering” language which allows:

- Any surgical assistant who has practiced in Ohio in the previous 6 months to be licensed automatically.
- Successfully completed a surgical assistant training program while serving in the U.S. Military.
- Hold a surgical assistant credential sponsored by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting or the National Commission for Certification of Surgical Assistants.

I have to admit to you that when I learned the pretty much anyone could assist on an open heart surgery, or for that matter, any surgery as a “surgical assistant” with little or no training or experience, I found it a tad terrifying! So I looked up as a lay person. Now to be fair, I have been around hospitals, nurses and doctors much of my life not mention being a big fan of Grey’s Anatomy, so I expected it to be pretty easy. Let’s just say if you asked me to hand you a “Snap” or “Crile Hemostat...I would be at a loss.

Ohioans who are going into surgery or will need any surgery in the future all deserve to have the Best, most professional, qualified and trained people in that room with them. Don’t we all want that for those we are here for and those we love? This legislation will do just that. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.