

Chairman Lipps and members of the House Health Committed, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 318. I am a certified anesthesiologist assistant (CAA) licensed by the State Medical Board of Ohio. I was born and raised in Gahanna, Ohio and attended Gahanna Lincoln High School, where I graduated in 2002. I started my professional journey by graduating with my bachelors of science in biology and chemistry with a Pre-Medicine focus at The University of Toledo. I continued with my masters of science in molecular and cancer biology at The University of Toledo, where I was fortunate enough to work in Dr. Bill Taylor's research lab and have both my research work and a textbook chapter published. I then took the medical college admission test (MCAT), and applied to Anesthesiologist Assistant school. I was accepted into the 2nd cohort at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Fl and was nominated by my peers and proudly served as class president.

As the Ohioan saying goes - once a Buckeye, always a Buckeye. Upon graduating from Nova in 2009, I headed home to start my professional career as a CAA in Springfield, Ohio. In 2011, I began working for the Mt. Carmel Health System at St. Ann's, where I have been for the past 10 years. I sit on the allied health professionals credentialing committee where we review and provide recommendations on applicants' privileges for the health system. In my career as a CAA, I have always strived to be actively involved in leadership positions that influence the safety, quality, and effectiveness of excellent patient care.

I come before you today in support of House Bill 318. This bill will significantly clarify and modernize the language in the statue regarding the practice of certified anesthesiologist assistants. To emphasize: CAAs will ALWAYS be supervised by an anesthesiologist. A physician that has a Pre-Medicine focused bachelor's degree, 4 years of medical school, and a minimum of 4 years of anesthesiology residency. CAAs are committed to the anesthesiologist-led anesthesia care team (where an anesthesiologist supervises up to 4 operating rooms and is immediately available to respond, if/when they are needed). CAAs appreciate and respect the collaborative and collegial work environment in which we ensure safe and effective anesthesiologist-led patient care.

With the growing shortage of health care providers in all areas of medicine, including anesthesia, it is imperative to ensure this statue is reflective of the training and education of CAAs. The inadvertent limitations posed by the current, antiquated CAA language could potentially prevent adequate access to anesthesia care and delay surgeries. As an extension of anesthesiologists, CAAs are highly trained in airway management, medication administration, anesthesia delivery systems, advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), and much more. When seconds count in an unexpected emergency, CAAs have extensive training to recognize and stabilize a patient until an anesthesiologist arrives to provide further expertise, as needed. I ask for your support of House Bill 318 to ensure patients in Ohio continue to have access to high quality, safe, and proven CAA anesthesia care statewide.