



**Statement to the House Health Committee  
HB 191-Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Scope of Practice  
Opponent Testimony Presented by Robert Derick, MD, FACS  
Ohio Ophthalmological Society  
November 14, 2018**

Good morning, Chair Huffman; Vice Chair Gavarone, ranking member Antonio and members of the Health Committee. My name is Dr. Robert Derick, and I am an ophthalmologist at Columbus Ophthalmology Associates and have been in clinical practice in Central Ohio for 27 years. I am here today testifying on behalf of the Ohio Ophthalmological Society in opposition to Substitute House Bill 191, which seeks to expand the scope of practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists, or CRNAs.

CRNAs are a very important member of the health care team, and my practice depends on their support to deliver optimal patient care regularly. Almost all of my Surgery is performed at the Columbus Eye Surgery center. At the center, our anesthesia team provides a vital function to sedate, provide anesthesia and overall perioperative care to my patients. I mention team because the Anesthesiologist and CRNAs are both important in delivering safe outcomes 100% of the time.

Physicians collectively appreciate what CRNAs do to help us provide our patients with the best quality care. But we have concerns understanding what this legislation is attempting to achieve. Within the practice of ophthalmology we cannot identify any problem which this bill would solve or any aspect of patient care that it would improve. I already feel strongly that patients are receiving the best care possible and believe the current care team is working. Anesthesia is very routine 99% of the time but that 1% when a patient is in trouble I want the safety and security that comes with the experience, training and judgement of a board certified Anesthesiologist working in concert with our CRNA's. Patients thrive when physicians and other allied health providers are working at the top of their education and training to provide the best care possible. I believe that is already being accomplished.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective to the committee today. At this time, if there are any questions, I would be happy to answer them.