

April 9, 2018

Dr. Kristen Engle

401 E. Murphy Ave.

Connellsville, PA 15425

Honorable Mark Mustio

House professional licensure committee

416 service office building

PO Box 202044

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2044

- I am a board certified General Surgeon and fellow of the American College of Surgeons. I have been in practice for over 20 years. I have a long history of working with CRNA's in the state of California. Currently, my practice is at Highlands Hospital, in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. The hospital is a small hospital which serves the needs of local residents. They have socioeconomic limitations, which results in decreased access of care outside of the local community. CRNA's who are able to function without a supervising Anesthesiologist, are essential to the timely and costly care of our patients. I have worked with these CRNA's on all my cases with the exception of those requiring local anesthesia only. This includes more simple procedures as well as more complex abdominal cases requiring intra-operative resuscitation.
- I oppose the provision of House Bill 79 requiring PHYSICIAN supervision of CRNA's. I am a General Surgeon and have both Critical Care and Trauma experience. Despite this experience, I am **unqualified** to supervise a CRNA or anyone else providing anesthesia to my patients while I am operating. I communicate with the anesthetist or the CRNA and attend to the sounds of the operating room, however this is with concern to my patient, not as a supervisory role.
- In my experience, and in accordance with standard of care, all CRNA's I have ever worked with preoperative assessment, intra-operative, or postoperative care.
- In over 20 years of practice I have never felt the quality of care of my patients received to be dependent on the type of certified provider present. Recent studies and supportive data, have shown that there is no difference in patient safety or outcome between nurse anesthetist and anesthesiologist.
- House Bill 789 unnecessarily institutes a supervisory requirement for CRNA's that will result in increasing the cost of healthcare while effectively limiting care to patient in more rural counties, where a few anesthesiologist are available. This Bill also places Surgeons in an inappropriate role as physician supervisor, while at the same time expecting them to place her full attention on the operation at hand. Nowhere in my training have I ever been instructed in the supervision

of nurse anesthetists. Board certification and licensure of nurses, physicians, and subspecialists provides the standard of care and also allocates the responsibility of each providers actions.

Thank you for considering my comments. I am also available by phone or email, if needed, to discuss these and other aspects of my strong opposition to House Bill 789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Engle', written in a cursive style.

Kristen Engle, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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