

PHYSICIAN VOICES FOR PATIENT SAFETY



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DC Residents deserve access to proper medical care from professionals with the right knowledge and experience to ensure appropriate diagnosis and treatment.



FACTS

Opposition to the Bill is Overwhelming

88% of DC physicians* oppose the bill

*According to a Pulse Survey conducted by MSDC and Coalition members in March 2024 among physicians licensed to practice in Washington, DC



Physicians spend significant amount of time in education and training should remain at the center of patient care.

CONCERNS ABOUT ANESTHESIOLOGIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE CHANGES

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) is leading a coalition of DC-based specialty medical societies to advocate to amend the DC Health Occupations Revisions General Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-545), proposed by the DC Committee on Health in November 2023.

This bill is a comprehensive rewrite of the law overseeing medical licensing and regulation in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the bill as written would overhaul scope of practice, place allied health professionals in oversight positions of medical licensing and remove the physician from the center of the care team.

The bill would allow additional allied health professions to apply anesthesia. Most concerning is the scope expansion that could permit nurse anesthetists to practice without physician collaboration.

1. Anesthesiologists have 5-7 times more patient-care hours than allied health professionals, and are required to complete medical school versus others who only need a bachelor's degree.
2. Anesthesia is safe, but in the rare cases when there are reactions full medical training is necessary to prevent disability or death.
3. Allied health professionals are a valuable part of a care team but need to be supervised by a physician who can intervene if application goes wrong.
4. Physicians are looking to ensure patients receive the best and safest care, which is collaborative care.



EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION	PHYSICIAN (M.D./D.O)	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	CRNA	NURSE PRACTITIONER	PHARMACISTS
Length of Graduate Level Education	4 Years	2 - 2.5 Years	2 - 3 Years	2 - 4 Years	4 Years
Years in Residency/ Fellowship	3 - 7 Years	None	None	None	None
Total Patient Care Hours Required Through Training	12,000 - 16,000 Hours	2,500 Hours	2,000 Hours	500 - 700 Hours	1,740 Hours



The DC Health Occupations Revisions General Amendment Act of 2023 is a misguided attempt to address access to care. DC residents deserve proper care that would not compromise their safety as well as professional standards.