**POMA MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Members of the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee

The Senate of Pennsylvania

**FROM:** Gene Battistella, DO, President Elect

 Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA)

**DATE:** June 11, 2019

**RE:** Oppose Senate Bill 325, CRNA Legislation

Dear Honorable Members the Pennsylvania Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) and our DO physician members practicing in anesthesiology, we stand with our physician colleagues from the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists in respectful opposition to Senate Bill 325. On the surface, SB 325 appears to be a simple title recognition bill. Unfortunately, POMA views it as a first step towards the erosion of the Anesthesia Care Team.

POMA believes that a team-based approach provides the best quality care for patients, including anesthesiology services. Nurse anesthetists provide skilled care within this model and alongside physicians. However, there are multiple disturbing trends emanating from the nurse anesthetist lobby that are moving away from the current team approach. These efforts include past and present attempts to erode physician oversight in anesthesia care via the Pennsylvania hospital regulations, attempts to confuse the public and policymakers in changing “nurse anesthetist” to “nurse anesthesiologist” and disparaging accusations implying billing fraud by physician anesthesiologists in response to physician oversight policy position.

Therefore, we request that you oppose SB 325 for the safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you for your time and consideration of POMAs position.