

To: Members, House Health Policy Committee
From: Adam Carlson, Vice President, Advocacy
Date: March 3, 2021
Re: House Bill 4359
Position: Support

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) supports House Bill (HB) 4359, sponsored by Rep. Mary Whiteford (R-Casco Township). This bill would modernize the scope of practice for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and bring Michigan in line with 42 other states and the U.S. Military which do not have a physician supervision requirement. Currently, in the state of Michigan, a licensed physician (not just an anesthesiologist) must supervise a CRNA to deliver anesthesia care.

The need for this bill is apparent in rural areas where there is limited access to anesthesia services. It has been an ongoing issue for many small hospitals. The cause of this is two-fold; a shortage of anesthesiologists and in some cases, surgeons practicing in rural areas are concerned about supervising CRNAs, whose practice is outside of their physician specialty. It is clear that the cost associated with having an anesthesiologist on call 24 hours a day may contribute to the shortage in rural areas.

HB 4359 allows the flexibility for each hospital to choose the anesthesia care model that best fits their location, staffing and resources to offer safe and effective patient care. This change will eliminate a costly regulation while maintaining patient safety. This was allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic and was successful.

The MHA urges you to support HB 4359 to ensure adequate access to surgery services across the state. Please contact Adam Carlson (acarlson@mha.org) at (517) 703-8601 at the MHA if you have further questions regarding the MHA's position.

Brian Peters, *Chief Executive Officer*