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Shannon Johnson, MSW, MPH
(843) 530-3482

sjohnson@scgastroassn.com

www.scgastroassn.com

October 10, 2019

Senator Danny Verdin
Chair, Senate Medical Affairs Committee
The Senate of South Carolina
Suite 412, Gressette Office Building
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202-142

Dear Senator Verdin,

Many gastroenterologists throughout the state supervise nurse anesthetists at their endoscopy centers. We oppose S.563 that would remove the physician supervision requirement for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and permit them to practice independently.

The physicians are medically and legally responsible for the care and safety of their patients during their endoscopic procedures. CRNAs are an important and integral part of the care team and provide a valuable service administering anesthetic agents such as propofol to our patients. The CRNAs are under our supervision. The physicians are involved in the presurgical evaluation, present during administration of anesthetic agents and evaluate the patient post procedure prior to discharge. Removing the physician direction and removing the requirement that a physician be immediately available would jeopardize the level of care that their patients expect and deserve.

We encourage you and other members of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee not to support this bill. Thank you for all that you and your colleagues do for our great state.

Respectfully yours,

Gary A. Vukov, MD
President, SCGA
Member Board of Trustees, SCMA