

# South Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society

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The Honorable Daniel B. Verdin, III  
Chairman, Senate Medical Affairs Committee  
412 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Senator Verdin:

Physicians practicing obstetrics and gynecology in South Carolina have a long tradition of leadership in quality improvement activities, which resulted in an increase in patient safety. This has only been possible due to innovative, empowered, and committed physician leadership. A critical element of that physician leadership on labor and delivery units around our State are our colleagues, the anesthesiologists.

Many women use medication to manage their pain during labor, and the management of that pain should be led by an anesthesiologist, a medical doctor specializing in anesthesia, pain and critical care medicine. As a reminder, maternal mortality rates in South Carolina are among the highest in the United States. Obstetricians depend on anesthesiologists to manage obstetric emergencies including massive obstetric hemorrhage, severe maternal hypertension and eclampsia. With 12 to 14 years of education and 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training, these highly trained medical specialists ensure safe, high-quality care.

We are very concerned that the SC Association of Nurse Anesthetists wants you to remove not only the anesthesiologist from directing the anesthesia care for our patients, but also removing the need for a physician supervisor. Obstetric emergencies are unpredictable, and happen rapidly. The changes proposed in S.563 pose an unnecessary risk to patient safety for the women of South Carolina.

The anesthesiologists and patients of South Carolina have our complete support. Please join us in opposing S.563.

Sincerely,



Amy Crockett, MD  
President, South Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society

CC: Members of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee