



January 18, 2016

Office of the General Counsel
Phillip Husband, General Counsel, Department of Health
899 North Capitol St., N.E., 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Mr. Husband,

On behalf of the more than 53,000 members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), I am writing in strong support of the proposed rulemaking for DCMR Title 17, Chapter 51 and request your support to see these proposed regulations adopted. As proposed, these regulations would, among other things, increase the supervision ratio for anesthesiologist assistants (AAs).

Currently, physician anesthesiologists in Washington D.C. may only supervise up to three AAs simultaneously. This proposed regulation would increase the number of AAs physician anesthesiologists can supervise from three to four, thereby expanding the District's access to safe health care and to the benefits AAs currently provide. This is a service that would greatly benefit all populations.

AAs are highly trained, master's degree level, non-physician anesthesia care providers whose function is similar to a specialized physician assistant.

On behalf of ASA, I strongly encourage your support in adopting these regulations so that more patients in Washington D.C. can benefit from the highly trained care that AAs provide. Thank you for opportunity to provide comments regarding DCMR Title 17, Chapter 51. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jason Hansen, M.S., J.D., Director of State Affairs, at j.hansen@asahq.org.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Cole, M.D.
President