



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
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March 17, 2016

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor
Office of the Governor
West Virginia
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: Veto HB 4334

Dear Governor Tomblin:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write to urge your veto of House Bill (H.B.) 4334. This bill would inappropriately allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to diagnose, treat, prescribe, and administer anesthesia independent of physician supervision, collaboration, or oversight. We are concerned that the changes proposed will undermine the delivery of patient-centered, team-based care in West Virginia.

The AMA believes that increased use of physician-led teams of multidisciplinary health care professionals will have a positive impact on the nation's primary care needs. This team-based approach includes physicians and other clinicians working together, sharing decisions and information, to achieve improved care, improved patient health and reduced costs.

Independent practice and team-based care take health care delivery in two very different directions. One approach would further compartmentalize and fragment health care delivery; the other would foster integration and coordination. At the same time, evidence demonstrates that independent APRN practice has not expanded access to health care. While we appreciate the intent of this legislation, based on all of the above, we strongly urge you to maintain current West Virginia law and veto H.B. 4334.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, LLM, Senior Legislative Attorney, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: West Virginia State Medical Association