

**The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – District II
American College of Physicians Services, Inc.-New York Chapter
Medical Societies of Albany and Ulster County
The Medical Society of the State of New York
New York Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, Inc.
New York State Academy of Family Physicians, Inc.
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Ophthalmological Society, Inc.
New York State Psychiatric Association, Inc.
The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.
New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc.
New York State Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.
New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc.**

**To: New York State Legislators
Re: Governor’s Budget Bill A.9507/S.7507 - Part H**

We, the listed medical societies, join the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., to urge you to **REJECT** this legislation that would compromise patient safety!

This bill would render null and void the longstanding standards of care established by state law for the delivery of anesthesia by permitting a nurse anesthetist to independently administer anesthesia and provide pain therapies without the physical presence and supervision of a qualified physician. The proposal saves no money, and puts patients at risk.

The “collaboration” relationship, as proposed, would entirely eliminate the involvement of a qualified physician to be physically present, and immediately available to supervise the nurse anesthetist, which is the current standard. This would create an entirely new and lower standard of care because of the myriad of potential patient safety issues that are not adequately addressed under the proposal.

The operating room is a unique environment. If a patient undergoing anesthesia develops life-threatening complications, immediate medical intervention is required. It is not a time for discussion, but a time for action by a physician.

As proposed, the collaborating physician need not be an anesthesiologist; and an immediate and effective intervention in the operating room would not be mandated for all cases.

Additionally, the proposal will grant up to 1,240 nurse anesthetists full prescribing authority upon obtaining a vaguely described “certificate,” at a time when New York State is combating prescription drug and opioid abuse. This will exacerbate the crisis.

The existing standards for the delivery of safe anesthesia care have served the people of New York State well, and should not be altered.

Put patient safety first! Support medical care by physicians by voting NO on A.9507/S.7507!