

Dear Arizona Anesthesiologist,

As physician anesthesiologists we are guardians of our patient's safety throughout their entire peri-operative experience, using our expert ability to lead and navigate all vital moments of anesthesia care.

As such, it is deeply troubling to us as physicians, individuals, Arizonans, and leaders when patient safety concerns arise in our state. This year's legislative session in Arizona has brought forward a significant patient safety concern. We have heard concerns from many of our members over the past week and we share them too. On behalf of our members, it is our pledge to fight on behalf of Arizona citizens for the protection of their safety in healthcare.

The Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists (AzSA) STRONGLY OPPOSES SB1269

This proposed bill would **eliminate** the long-established requirement for **physician direction and presence** in anesthesia care provided by nurse anesthetists. Removing the requirement that physicians be involved in providing anesthesia would create significant risk of harm to Arizona patients and is a dangerous step in the wrong direction. The best way to maintain and ensure high quality anesthesia care is to maintain physicians as the leaders of the health care team. The bottom line is that there is no clinical benefit and substantial potential harm to adopting a lower standard that is overwhelmingly opposed by physicians and patients alike.

Arizona patients expect and deserve to have a physician involved in their anesthesia care - Every patient, Every surgery, Every time.

AzSA will rely heavily on member engagement to advocate on behalf of Arizonans' safety. How you can help today:

- Make sure you have an active account in the Arizona legislature's Request to Speak, or "RTS" system. This account will allow you to log in and register opposition to the bill. Of note, SB1269 is not yet available for comment but will be soon.
- If you do not yet have an active RTS account, please click [here](#) or contact any AzSA board member. We will respond and assist promptly.

Look for email and AzSA website updates in the upcoming weeks. We need every Arizona Anesthesiologist's involvement and effort. AzSA will notify you when SB1269 opens for comment in the RTS system.

Sincerely,

Steven Lindauer, MD, FASA
President, Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists