

Gary Cooper, Legislative Advocate - Introductory Remarks

Members, thank you for today's hearing. I'm Gary Cooper, legislative advocate for the California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, representing 900 professionals in the practice across California. Questions have been raised about the safety of patients while being administered anesthesia during office procedures. **The answer, as you will hear in today's testimony, is that oral and maxillofacial surgeons have an impressive record of safety and that efforts to require additional medical professionals in office procedures is unnecessary and would greatly harm patient access to critical services.**

The exceptional safety record isn't due *just* to a personal commitment on the part of the oral and maxillofacial surgeons to making safety a top priority. It's much more than good intentions. In fact, oral and maxillofacial surgeons undergo extremely challenging and extensive training to administer anesthesia, and undergo significant training during their formal education as well as undergo in-office anesthesia evaluation every 5 years conducted by Dental Board-appointed surgeons in the field. The rigorous and practical training, as well as required ongoing education is why procedures are so consistently safe and successful.

You will hear about the extent of training, and the oral and maxillofacial safety model followed by oral and maxillofacial surgeons who operate with anesthesiology permits authorized the Dental Board given their expertise and training.

You will also hear why proposals to mandate an additional anesthesia permit holder during procedures **although well-intended, will have the unavoidable consequence of preventing access to care to those who need it, who often represent some of the most vulnerable among us, including Denti-Cal patients.** At a time when there are great unanswered questions about access to health care, we should avoid pursuing steps that increase that uncertainty.

Members, no medical procedure is without risk. But the training and safety record of oral and maxillofacial surgeons is without question extremely strong. And I ask that you keep that in consideration today.

I now yield to our speakers.

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