

March 29, 2018

To whom it may concern:

My name is Hector-L Santiago, and I am a physician anesthesiologist at The Woman's Hospital of Texas, in Houston, TX. I am the Clinical Medical Director of my anesthesia group in Houston. Our group is managed by MEDNAX Services, Inc. In our practice, we use the team model approach with a maximum of 4 CRNAs per physician anesthesiologist. Upon hearing what is happening in Charlotte, NC to one of our affiliated medical practices, I was not only outraged, but disappointed in the stand that Atrium Health is taking against Southeast Anesthesiology Consultants. Southeast Anesthesiology Consultants has been providing excellent service to the community for almost 40 years and has always put patient safety and patient satisfaction over profits. Even though profits can be increased by staffing the ORs with more CRNAs and less physician anesthesiologists, it is not in any patient's best interest to do this. If an emergency occurs in any of the OR suites, it is very difficult and dangerous to try to cover all the other rooms. With the traditional 1:4 ratio, you typically have other physician anesthesiologists available to provide coverage to other rooms in the event that an emergency occurs in one of the other operating rooms. As you increase this ratio, the probability of only one physician anesthesiologist being available at all times, increases exponentially.

It is my hope, for the patient's benefit and safety, that Atrium Health comes to it senses and puts patient safety first and not profits. Atrium Health should learn from MEDNAX's mission statement, specifically to above all else, "Take Great Care of the Patient, Every day and in Every way". In summary, I am in full support of Southeast Anesthesiology Consultants and their practice management company, MEDNAX Services, Inc., in their continued efforts of coming up with the right solution.

Sincerely,



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