



 Outlook

[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

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To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a SRNA at Geisinger Commonwealth University, I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

I was born and raised in Schuylkill County Pennsylvania, and after several years of working as a registered nurse in critical care, I was drawn to the depth of knowledge, autonomy, and direct patient impact that the nurse anesthesia role offers. CRNAs are not only highly skilled anesthesia providers, but also vital members of the surgical team, ensuring safety, comfort, and continuity of care throughout every phase of a procedure. This blend of compassion and clinical excellence is what led me to pursue my long-standing goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. I am currently in the nurse anesthesia program at Geisinger Commonwealth University, with graduation anticipated in May of 2027.

- This rulemaking finally recognizes and licenses CRNAs as intended under Act 60 of 2021. The rulemaking solidifies the scope of practice for CRNAs to administer anesthesia in cooperation with and under the overall direction of licensed physicians, podiatrists, and dentists, while setting licensing fees and certification standards.
- CRNAs pride themselves on rigorous education and training standards. These regulations recognize the commitment each individual puts into their profession to provide the highest level of care. (Talk specifically about some of the training you are undergoing to become a CRNA.)
- These regulations create a new incentive for students like me to stay and practice here. I know some SRNAs take their talents to other states that recognized CRNAs, even though they had to wait as long as six months to become credentialed, delaying their ability to work. Now, Pennsylvania is even more attractive place not only to get an education, but to stay and build a career.
- Pennsylvania is among the top draws nationally for CRNA students, with 15 highly rated nurse anesthetist programs operating across the commonwealth. With these regulations, Pennsylvania is doing the right thing by strengthening existing CRNA programs and supporting the highly qualified professionals these programs produce.
- In today's changing health-care environment, patients want health care delivered with personal care, at a lower cost, with a high degree of confidence. CRNAs deliver all of these by staying with their patients throughout the entire procedure and ensuring that the whole of the patient is cared for --- physically, mentally and emotionally.

For all these reasons, I urge support for the proposed rulemaking. I appreciate all the work that has gone into finally giving CRNAs the recognition they deserve. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

SINCERELY,
Abigail Fanelli, RN, BSN, SRNA
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