



 Outlook

[External] 16A-5145 CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

From Erika Smeltz <ESmeltz@cedarcrest.edu>
Date Wed 7/23/2025 2:14 PM
To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a current nurse anesthesia resident/student registered nurse anesthesiologist at Cedar Crest College located here in Pennsylvania, I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

This rulemaking finally recognizes, and licenses certified registered nurse anesthesiologists (CRNA) 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. Anesthesia providers pride themselves on the rigorous didactic and clinical training standards. These regulations recognize the commitment we each individual have put into our profession to provide the highest level of care for the community. As you may already know, all programs in Pennsylvania have moved to a Doctorate in Nursing Practice degree. My commitment to this profession has been more than 10 years in the making as I have worked hard to have this opportunity. I have been a resident in Lancaster County my entire life thus far. I have been a bedside registered nurse from 2017 to 2023 (first in orthopedic trauma and then in critical care) before I choose this 36month intense anesthesia training commitment.

These regulations create an exciting and new incentive for students like myself to stay and practice here in Pennsylvania after graduation and credentialing. Pennsylvania has the most nurse anesthesia programs in the entire country, producing the highest number of graduating students each and every year. Following graduation and licensing, this would support, strengthen, and retain anesthesia providers statewide allowing providers to practice to their license and skillsets fullest abilities. Currently, some SRNAs take their skills and experiences to neighboring states that already recognize CRNAs, even though they had to wait as long as six months to become credentialed, delaying their ability to work. Now, this would make Pennsylvania an even more attractive place of employment not only for educational purposes, but to stay and build a career here.

In today's changing health-care environment, patients want health care delivered with personal care, at a lower cost, and 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,

Erika Smeltz BSN- RN, ONC, CCRN, SRNA
Cedar Crest College, Nurse Anesthesia Program
Graduation August 2026