



 Outlook

---

[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

---

From Heather Farrell <htsiotsias@hotmail.com>  
Date Tue 7/22/2025 8:46 AM  
To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

**ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown senders. To report suspicious email, use the [Report Phishing button in Outlook](#).

---

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA). I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and I work at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I have been practicing as a CRNA for nearly twenty years.

The 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. I spent five years working as a critical care nurse, in the trauma unit at Cooper Hospital (Camden, New Jersey) prior to applying to nurse anesthesia schools. I attended the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark, New Jersey (now Rutgers University.) I did clinicals in cardiac, thoracic, pediatric, pain management and general anesthesia. My training was rigorous, and my class had only four graduates. It was a very challenging program to be admitted, and it was even more challenging to stay. I have worked with a diverse population of folks, and my career has been very rewarding.

Because of our training and experience leading to and during nurse anesthesia school, numerous medical studies show there is no statistical difference in patient outcomes when a nurse anesthetist provides treatment versus an anesthesiologist. In fact, these studies by nationally recognized health-care policy and research organizations prove that CRNAs provide high-quality care, even for rare and difficult procedures.

Pennsylvania is among the top draws nationally for CRNA students, with fifteen highly rated nurse anesthetist programs operating across the commonwealth. With the regulations, Pennsylvania is 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, and a high degree of confidence. For 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,  
Heather Farrell CRNA, MSN  
3401 Civic Center Blvd  
Phila, Pa 19104