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[External] Support for CRNA Proposed Rulemaking (16A-5145)

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Date Tue 7/22/2025 11:10 AM
To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a student registered nurse anesthetist (SRNA) currently enrolled at University of Pittsburgh, I am writing to express my support for the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking 16A-5145 regarding Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

This proposed rule is a vital step toward recognizing and licensing CRNAs in alignment with the intent of Act 60 of 2021. It clearly defines the CRNA scope of practice, allowing us to administer anesthesia in cooperation with, and under the direction of, licensed physicians, podiatrists, and dentists—while also establishing appropriate licensing fees and certification standards.

CRNAs undergo extensive training to ensure the highest level of patient care. As a current SRNA, I am gaining firsthand experience in managing complex cases, administering a wide variety of anesthetic techniques, and maintaining patient safety through every stage of surgical care. These proposed regulations affirm the rigorous preparation that CRNAs complete and the high standards we are held to.

This rule will also encourage SRNAs like myself to stay and practice in Pennsylvania after graduation. In the past, many graduates have relocated to other states that already formally recognize CRNAs, even when doing so meant months-long delays in obtaining credentialing. With these regulations in place, Pennsylvania becomes a more attractive and supportive environment to build a long-term career in nurse anesthesia.

Pennsylvania is home to 15 high-quality CRNA programs and continues to attract students from across the country. By advancing these regulations, the state reinforces its commitment to strengthening the CRNA workforce and the quality of care provided to patients.

In today's evolving healthcare landscape, patients seek care that is personal, cost-effective, and delivered with confidence. CRNAs are uniquely positioned to provide that care, staying with patients throughout their procedure and addressing not only their physical needs, but their emotional well-being as well.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge support for this proposed rulemaking. Thank you for your attention and for recognizing the critical role CRNAs play in the future of healthcare in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,
Joe Ljucovic, SRNA