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[External] CRNA Proposed Regulations

From Katie Burnett <katcburnett@gmail.com>
Date Tue 7/22/2025 7:50 AM
To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am an SRNA at Duquesne University and Allegheny School of Anesthesia in my last few weeks of CRNA school. As I begin my career, I know the importance of advocating for my profession. Thus, I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

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. I can attest to this having spent the last three years rigorously training and studying to become a CRNA. It's evident in the thousands of hours of clinical time and numerous specialty experiences I have obtained over the years.

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 because they recognize CRNAs. Despite long credentialing processes that delay their ability to work. With these regulations, Pennsylvania is an 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. These regulations would strengthen existing CRNA programs and support the highly qualified professionals these programs produce in Pennsylvania.

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,
Katherine Burnett, RN, BSN, SRNA
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