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[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

From Keith Wieland <keithfw@gmail.com>
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To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rule making, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

I have been a CRNA for almost 16 years and have worked in a variety of settings including community hospitals, large tertiary hospitals and outpatient surgical centers. I trained in Pittsburgh and have worked in Northern Pennsylvania, as well as, the greater Philadelphia area. I'm also licensed in a couple of the surrounding states.

I'm finding that working outside of Pennsylvania provides greater autonomy and independence. The licensing in these states has provided me with greater opportunity to fulfill my practice goals. I'd like to remain primarily in Pennsylvania providing anesthesia to my full scope of practice and licensure and I believe this rule making is a step in the right direction.

I'm in full support of 16A-5145 and expect that the regulatory counsel will move forward with implementing this rule making.

This rule making finally recognizes and licenses CRNAs as intended under Act 60 of 2021. The rule making 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 remain the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America, enabling health-care facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, pain management, trauma stabilization, and other services. Without CRNAs, facilities in rural areas and medically underserved communities would not be able to maintain these services, forcing many rural Americans to travel long distances for care.

If the counsel or board has further questions or needs clarification on how CRNAs impact the delivery of surgical care, I implore you to reach out directly to myself or any one of my colleagues.

I'm grateful that this topic is being addressed by the regulatory counsel.

Best regards,

Keith

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