



 Outlook

[External] CRNA proposed Rule-making

From Michael Szlachta <mjszlachta@comcast.net>
Date Wed 7/23/2025 7:41 AM
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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 32 years in PA and have worked in both a large academic medical center and as an independent practitioner in outpatient facilities in the Commonwealth.

This rule making finally recognizes and licenses CRNAs as intended under PA 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.

CRNA education requires three full years of graduate education after working as an RN in a high-acuity ICU. CRNA educational programs are very competitive and rigorous, as are training standards. These regulations recognize the education and training each individual CRNA has successfully completed to use the CRNA credential and provide the highest level of care to our patients.

Numerous research studies clearly demonstrate that there is no statistical difference in patient outcomes when a nurse anesthetist provides anesthesia when compared to our physician colleagues. 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 15 highly-rated nurse anesthetist programs operating across the commonwealth. Pennsylvania is smart to strengthen the existing CRNA programs in PA and support the highly-qualified professional CRNAs these programs graduate by approving the proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

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 and competence. CRNAs deliver all these by caring for their patients throughout the entire procedure and ensuring safe, patient-centered care. Health care facilities are looking for the same: expert skill and cost-effective care. CRNAs historically and currently provide both.

For all these reasons, I urge support for the proposed rule making 16A-5145 (CRNA). I appreciate all the work that has contributed to finally providing CRNAs the recognition we deserve. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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