



 Outlook

[External] 16A-5145 (CRNA)

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To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

As the director of the UPMC Hamot School of Anesthesia in Erie County and an active working CRNA for the past ten years in both Erie and Allegheny counties, I am very excited about **16A-5145 (CRNA)** as you can imagine. This rulemaking is critically important to our profession because CRNAs will finally be recognized as intended under Act 60 of 2021 to administer anesthesia in cooperation with licensed physicians, dentists and other professionals while setting fees and certification standards. This recognition is long overdue.

CRNAs take great pride in the rigor of our education and training. I had ten years of experience as a nurse working in long-term care as a staff nurse, medical director, and educator, in intensive care and medical detox, and for continuous care hospice prior to anesthesia training. I put myself through a top tier anesthesia program while continuing to work. I did a weekly average of 50 hours in the clinical setting in anesthesia training while spending another 20-30 hours in class or studying while also working another 16 hours in the intensive care/medical detox unit at UPMC Mercy hospital in Pittsburgh throughout my entire training program. I was a very well-prepared, competent anesthesia provider upon my graduation. I have continually sought opportunities to grow as a CRNA advanced practice provider. I started my anesthesia career as a CRNA at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh and worked as a mentor to the University of Pittsburgh trainees while continuing to seek professional development opportunities on the UPMC APP Council. I transitioned to work for UPMC Hamot in 2018 closer to my original home and had opportunities to continue to teach which I pursued. I am now the director of the UPMC Hamot School of Anesthesia and help to provide an excellent anesthesia program in the tri-state region and nationally. I personally help provide professional development opportunities to other anesthesia providers through our annual Anesthesia Symposium. **These regulations recognize the commitment, education, and clinical training we have each put into our profession to provide the highest possible standards of care to our patients and communities.**

As a School of Anesthesia director, I can assure you that Pennsylvania is one of the top draws nationally for CRNA students. With these regulations, Pennsylvania is doing the right thing by strengthening existing CRNA programs and supporting the highly qualified professionals these programs produce. Many resident registered nurse anesthesiologists (RRNAs) have attended our school intending to work in the mid-west and western states independently. Further validating their efforts and training opportunities continues to strengthen these providers in their training opportunities and potentially increase the draw to practice within the state of Pennsylvania versus leaving for better opportunities with full scope of practice.

For these reasons and many others, I strongly urge support for this propose rulemaking. I appreciate all the work that has gone into finally giving CRNAs the recognition we deserve. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to reach out if I can provide support or clarification in any way.

Professionally yours,

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Program Director

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