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[External] CRNA Proposed Rule Making

From reeneharvey@verizon.net <reeneharvey@verizon.net>  
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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 rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA). I'm a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist working at WVU Medicine- Uniontown Hospital and USDH GI Center -Uniontown in Fayette County. I have been practicing for twenty nine years. The USDH GI Center facility functions with the primary care providers of anesthesia being CRNA's only. Let me tell you why this rulemaking is so important for our profession.

- 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 have attended college for ten years, obtained my Doctorate Degree, recruit nursing students to become CRNA's through a shadowing program, and actively participate in high school mentoring programs through lectures and shadowing programs to recruit students to pursue careers in anesthesia. I have been an ACLS instructor for the past 30 years.

- Because of their training and experience, numerous medical studies show there is no statistical difference in patient outcomes when a nurse anesthetist provides treatment. 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.

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. WVU Medicine- Uniontown Hospital just re-opened our OB department in January, 2025. This obstetrical service is much needed in Fayette County and this OB department functions with the primary care providers of anesthesia being CRNA's only.

- Pennsylvania is among the top draws nationally for CRNA students, with 15 highly rated nurse anesthetist programs operating across the commonwealth. With these regulations, Pennsylvania is doing the right thing by strengthening existing CRNA programs and supporting the highly qualified professionals these programs produce. I have taught at Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia, Saint Vincent College, and functioned as a Clinical Coordinator at Uniontown Hospital for years.

- 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,

Dr. Renee Harvey DNP, CRNA  
WVU Medicine - Uniontown Hospital/ USDH GI Center-Uniontown  
230 Laureldale Road  
Perryopolis, PA 15473