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[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

From Amy Tsao <aimyamy@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 rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

I am a resident of Philadelphia and have been working as a CRNA since 2023. 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 spent 4 years as an ICU nurse before attending a challenging 3-year full-time anesthesia program at UPenn. Alongside our classes, I spent 2-3 days a week practicing at the hospital on 8-16 hour shifts.

Numerous medical studies by nationally recognized health-care policy and research organizations show there is no statistical difference in patient outcomes when a nurse anesthetist provides treatment. In fact, these studies prove that CRNAs provide high-quality care, even for rare and difficult procedures.

Pennsylvania is among the top draws nationally for CRNA students, and I am proud to have been one of them. There are 15 highly rated nurse anesthetist programs operating across the commonwealth. With these regulations, Pennsylvania will strengthen existing CRNA programs and support the highly qualified professionals these programs produce.

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 stay with their patients throughout the entire procedure to ensure holistic physical and emotional patient care.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support the proposed rulemaking. I appreciate all the work that has gone into giving the CRNA profession the recognition it deserves. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amy Tsao, DNP-NA
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