



 Outlook

[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking 16A-5145 (CRNA)

From Jessica P <jlpoole813@gmail.com>
Date Tue 7/29/2025 9:54 AM
To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jess Poole, and I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) who has been practicing in Pennsylvania for the past 15 years. Throughout my career, I've worked in every anesthetizing location and cared for the most complex patients across the lifespan — from serving as the solo anesthesia provider in rural hospitals, to delivering office-based anesthesia, to caring for patients in Level 1 trauma centers, and everything in between. I've provided anesthesia in every practice setting including independently, in collaboration with physician anesthesiologists, and as the sole clinician responsible for comprehensive perioperative care.

In addition to my clinical work, I serve as the Director of Government Affairs for the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA). I am in a unique position to bring the realities of the operating room and the work we do administering anesthesia directly to our state capitol. It's this frontline experience that helps inform and shape meaningful policy changes — like this proposed rulemaking — that recognize the importance and value of CRNAs in modern healthcare. My goal in this advocacy role is to help strengthen our anesthesia pipeline and ensure stability across the profession and the state, especially as we face increasing demand and workforce challenges.

I am writing to express my strong support for the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

This rulemaking finally recognizes and licenses CRNAs as intended under Act 60 of 2021. It clarifies and confirms our scope of practice — allowing CRNAs to administer anesthesia in cooperation with licensed physicians, podiatrists, and dentists — and establishes long-overdue licensing fees and certification standards.

CRNAs undergo some of the most rigorous academic and clinical preparation in healthcare. My training included thousands of hours caring for patients in high-acuity environments, from obstetric emergencies to trauma cases. Decades of research show that CRNAs provide safe, high-quality care with outcomes equivalent to — and sometimes better than — other anesthesia models.

Having practiced in rural and underserved areas, I can personally attest to the critical role CRNAs play in keeping these hospitals and surgical services operational. Without us, many communities would be forced to delay or travel long distances for essential care — from C-sections to trauma stabilization.

In today's healthcare environment, patients want high-quality, cost-effective care from trusted professionals. CRNAs deliver that, and more. We remain at our patients' side throughout their procedures, providing expert anesthesia care while addressing the physical, emotional, and safety needs of every individual.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support the proposed rulemaking. Thank you for recognizing the essential contributions CRNAs make to the health and safety of Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Jess

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