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[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

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From Melissa Rombola <melissaarombola@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:

As a SRNA at Cedar Crest College, I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rule-making, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

My name is Melissa Rombola and I am a senior student registered nurse anesthetist (SRNA) with over eight years experience in an open heart surgery ICU here in Pennsylvania. I have nine months remaining until my graduation date and I am greatly looking forward to continue my work as a CRNA in PA.

This rule-making 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. As a senior SRNA, I have personally cared for numerous patients in emergent situations including obstetric, vascular, cardiac, and pediatric emergencies. I am lucky to have been adequately trained on how to handle these situations both independently, and with physician oversight.

These regulations create a new incentive for students like me to stay and practice here. I know several SRNAs take their talents to other states that recognized CRNAs, even though they had to wait as long as six months to become credentialed, delaying their ability to work. As a current SRNA, I will admit that it has tempted me to practice out of state as well. However, now Pennsylvania is even more attractive place not only to get an education, but to stay and build a career.

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.

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,  
Melissa Rombola, BSN, RN, CCRN-CSC, SRNA  
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