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**[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking**

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**Date** Sun 7/27/2025 4:42 PM  
**To** ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a SRNA at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

My name is Stephen McNinch and I am a senior SRNA in the Geisinger/Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania-Bloomsburg Nurse Anesthesia Program. I am originally from Bradford, PA, but I moved to Bloomsburg in 2018 after finishing nursing school at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Upon graduation, I began working in the Cardiac ICU at Geisinger Medical Center, where I remained until I started my second year of graduate school in summer of 2024. As a nurse for 7 years and an aspiring CRNA for more than that, this piece of legislation is something that I think all of us have been waiting for and is the reason for writing this letter.

- 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. CRNA students essentially give up three years of their lives to attend school and learn the intricacies of providing safe and effective anesthesia care. We take care of every type of patient imaginable while in school, such as anesthesia for cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, and pediatrics while still being expected to study and learn the human body to an incredible depth with the limited amount of time we have. Recently, a doctoral degree (DNP) became the standard entry degree for CRNAs which now adds the rigors of a research project to this workload, while also trying to balance family and personal life while not being employed.
- These regulations create a new incentive for students like me to stay and practice here. I know some 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. Now, Pennsylvania is an 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,  
Stephen McNinch, BSN, RN, SRNA  
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