
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 13 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY M. WHITE, KITCHEN, STACK, FONTANA, D. WHITE,
FERLO, ERICKSON, LEACH, TARTAGLIONE, PIPPY, RAFFERTY, ROBBINS
AND BAKER, JANUARY 19, 2011

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 19, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of January 23 through 29, 2011, as "Nurse
2 Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Nurse anesthetists were the first professional group
4 to provide anesthesia in the United States and are the oldest
5 recognized group of advanced practice registered nurse
6 specialists; and

7 WHEREAS, These registered nurses have completed a graduate-
8 level educational program in a nationally accredited program of
9 nurse anesthesia and after graduation are qualified to take the
10 national certifying examination; and

11 WHEREAS, Graduates who successfully pass the examination can
12 use the title, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA),
13 and, in addition, all graduates of nurse anesthesia educational
14 programs receive a master's degree upon completion of the
15 rigorous academic and clinical curriculum; and

16 WHEREAS, CRNAs provide anesthesia services in all settings in
17 which anesthesia is delivered and are not required by Federal or

1 State law to be supervised or directed by physician
2 anesthesiologists; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the American Association of Nurse
4 Anesthetists, more than two-thirds of all rural hospitals rely
5 on CRNAs to provide anesthesia care, and without these advanced
6 practice nurses, some 1,500 facilities would be unable to
7 maintain trauma stabilization and surgical and obstetrical
8 capabilities, forcing many rural Americans to travel long
9 distances for such services; and

10 WHEREAS, Each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory
11 surgical centers, physician's offices and the medical facilities
12 of the United States military, Veterans Health Administration
13 and Public Health Service are the hands-on providers of
14 approximately 32 million anesthetics given to patients in the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, The week of January 23 through 29, 2011, has been
17 designated as Nurse Anesthetists Week; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of January 23
19 through 29, 2011, as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania
20 to recognize the importance of certified registered nurse
21 anesthetists and their role in providing quality health care for
22 the public.