

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE FEDERAL VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TO
3 RECOGNIZE FULL-PRACTICE AUTHORITY FOR CERTIFIED REGISTERED
4 NURSE ANESTHETISTS TO PRACTICE IN ITS FACILITIES ANESTHESIA,
5 DELIVERY FOR SURGERY, LABOR AND DELIVERY, TRAUMA
6 STABILIZATION AND CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT.

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8 WHEREAS, certified registered nurse anesthetists are
9 highly educated advanced practice registered nurses who hold
10 a masters or doctoral degree from an accredited nurse
11 anesthesia educational program and must attain a minimum of
12 seven or eight years of education, training and experience
13 before becoming certified registered nurse anesthetists; and

14 WHEREAS, certified registered nurse anesthetists deliver
15 anesthesia care to veterans across New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, certified registered nurse anesthetists work in
17 every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including
18 battlefields, forward surgical teams, hospitals, ambulatory
19 surgical centers, dental offices, pain clinics and physician
20 offices; and

21 WHEREAS, certified registered nurse anesthetists provide
22 such services as pre-anesthesia evaluation, administering
23 anesthetics, monitoring and interpreting patients' vital
24 signs and managing patients' care through surgery and in the
25 recovery room; and

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau,
2 one hundred seventy-two thousand seven hundred seventeen New
3 Mexicans are veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, there are only sixteen federal veterans health
5 administration facilities throughout the state, with six
6 centers in metropolitan areas; and

7 WHEREAS, there are more than eighty-six thousand
8 veterans living in rural areas who have limited access to
9 necessary medical services; and

10 WHEREAS, maximizing the ability for certified registered
11 nurse anesthetists to practice within their full scope allows
12 for increased services to veterans for needed health care
13 requiring anesthesia services; and

14 WHEREAS, allowing existing certified registered nurse
15 anesthetists in the veterans health administration full-
16 practice authority would increase patient access to care
17 without additional funding; and

18 WHEREAS, the American association of nurse anesthetists
19 has expressed strong concerns about federal legislation that
20 omits certified registered nurse anesthetists and recognizes
21 only three of the four advanced practice registered nurse
22 specialties for full-practice authority in the veterans
23 health administration; and

24 WHEREAS, granting full-practice authority to certified
25 registered nurse anesthetists would increase the nation's

1 veterans would have access to essential surgical, emergency,
2 obstetric and pain management health care services without
3 needless delays or having to travel long distances for care;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the veterans
6 health administration be requested to recognize full-practice
7 authority for certified registered nurse anesthetists; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the under secretary for health of the veterans
10 health administration, the medical director of the New Mexico
11 veterans affairs health care system, New Mexico's secretary
12 of veterans' services and the American association of nurse
13 anesthetists.

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