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SENATE MEMORIAL

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Martin Hickey

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE AS
"CERTIFIED ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS WEEK" TO RECOGNIZE
CERTIFIED ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS AS HIGHLY SKILLED HEALTH
CARE PROFESSIONALS, ACKNOWLEDGE THE EDUCATIONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING THAT CERTIFIED ANESTHESIOLOGIST
ASSISTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTAIN AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE CRUCIAL
ROLE OF CERTIFIED ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS IN THE DELIVERY
OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, leaders in the medical
specialty of anesthesiology recognized staffing shortages, and
to meet growing demands and accommodate the increasing
complexity of anesthesia and surgery, three anesthesiologists
proposed the precursor to what is now known as the certified
anesthesiologist assistant; and

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1 WHEREAS, certified anesthesiologist assistants are highly
2 skilled health care professionals who work under the direction
3 of licensed physician anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia
4 care plans and work exclusively within the anesthesia care team
5 model as described by the American society of
6 anesthesiologists; and

7 WHEREAS, all certified anesthesiologist assistant students
8 must have earned a baccalaureate degree with pre-medical
9 coursework and complete a graduate-level, comprehensive,
10 didactic clinical program; and

11 WHEREAS, certified anesthesiologist assistant training
12 must include a minimum of twenty-four to twenty-eight months in
13 a master's-level program accredited by the commission on
14 accreditation of allied health education programs and must be
15 based at, or offered in collaboration with, a university that
16 has a medical school and academic anesthesiologist physician
17 faculty; and

18 WHEREAS, an average of six hundred hours of classroom and
19 laboratory education, two thousand six hundred hours of
20 clinical anesthesia education and the administration of more
21 than six hundred anesthetics for various types of surgeries are
22 typically required to successfully complete certified
23 anesthesiologist assistant training; and

24 WHEREAS, certified anesthesiologist assistants are trained
25 extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality

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1 anesthesia care as well as advanced patient monitoring
2 techniques, and certified anesthesiologist assistants perform
3 such tasks as administering drugs, obtaining vascular access,
4 applying and interpreting monitors, establishing and
5 maintaining patient airways and assisting with preoperative
6 assessments;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare June 6
9 through June 12, 2022 as "Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants
10 Week" in New Mexico; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the members of the legislative health and human
13 services committee and the New Mexico academy of
14 anesthesiologist assistants.