

HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT, INDIAN AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 26

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, certified registered nurse anesthetists work in

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1 every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including
2 battlefields, forward surgical teams, hospitals, ambulatory
3 surgical centers, dental offices, pain clinics and physician
4 offices; and

5 WHEREAS, certified registered nurse anesthetists provide
6 such services as pre-anesthesia evaluation, administering
7 anesthetics, monitoring and interpreting patients' vital signs
8 and managing patients' care through surgery and in the recovery
9 room; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the United States census bureau, one
11 hundred seventy-two thousand seven hundred seventeen New
12 Mexicans are veterans; and

13 WHEREAS, there are only sixteen federal veterans health
14 administration facilities throughout the state, with six
15 centers in metropolitan areas; and

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

19 WHEREAS, maximizing the ability for certified registered
20 nurse anesthetists to practice within their full scope allows
21 for increased services to veterans for needed health care
22 requiring anesthesia services; and

23 WHEREAS, allowing existing certified registered nurse
24 anesthetists in the veterans health administration full-
25 practice authority would increase patient access to care

1 without additional funding; and

2 WHEREAS, the American association of nurse anesthetists
3 has expressed strong concerns about federal legislation that
4 omits certified registered nurse anesthetists and recognizes
5 only three of the four advanced practice registered nurse
6 specialties for full-practice authority in the veterans health
7 administration; and

8 WHEREAS, granting full-practice authority to certified
9 registered nurse anesthetists would increase the nation's
10 veterans would have access to essential surgical, emergency,
11 obstetric and pain management health care services without
12 needless delays or having to travel long distances for care;

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the under secretary for health of the veterans
19 health administration, the medical director of the New Mexico
20 veterans affairs health care system, New Mexico's secretary of
21 veterans' services and the American association of nurse
22 anesthetists.

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