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FAMILY MEDICINE

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ann Young. I am the Hospitalist at Lexington Regional Health Center. I have my certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner and also a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. I am of the understanding that since I am not a Physician and that my voice cannot be heard. I wanted to write my letter anyway and give it a try. I have been practicing in health care as a Family Nurse Practitioner since May of 2000. I have many years working in rural hospitals.

I do not support AA Licensure in the state of Nebraska. I do support CRNA Licensure and growing our numbers for the rural health care settings. I have been the Hospitalist at LRHC for the last six years. I also work in the Emergency room and help cover as an assistant in surgery if needed. I see the true value of a CRNA and their exceptional knowledge that they have and can offer a rural setting as well as a large hospital venue. As a rural hospital, it would not be practical to employ an AA because of their supervisory needs, insurance liabilities, and financial constraints to our already struggling economy.

I have the utmost admiration for our CRNAs. They are well trained and on so many occasions in the variety of emergencies that I have needed them for, I never have felt that they could not perform or have to have a need for backup services. This would not be the case for AA services. The CRNAs that I work with perform emergent intubations for me at any time of day or night, assist in local sedation for "putting a part of anatomy back in place", and are always on standby for our OB patients. This is not even speaking to the number of surgicals we do on an annual basis and without them it would not be possible.

Let's continue to work with a strong educational foundation within the CRNA program that has proven to be helpful in all environments. Our healthcare not only for the state of Nebraska, but nationwide is needing to make smart and practical decisions that involve the whole and not the part.

Sincerely,

Ann Young, APRN-BC, PMHNP-BC