July 25, 2022

DHHS Licensure Unit
Office of Research, Policy, and Quality Improvement
ATTN: Credentialing Review
PO Box 94986
Lincoln, NE | 68509

RE: ACS Endorsement of Licensure of Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs)

To the members of the Anesthesiologist Assistants Technical Review Committee:

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is the largest surgical organization with over 84,000 members worldwide. The ACS supports the application from the Nebraska Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants to seek the development of licensure for Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) in Nebraska.

The ACS strongly encourages the licensure of CAAs to help ensure surgical patients in Nebraska are receiving high quality anesthesia care from those who are well-educated and trained to provide care. CAAs are highly skilled health professionals who work under the direction of licensed physician anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care plans.

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants have successfully practiced for many years in 17 jurisdictions under the supervision of physician anesthesiologists within the confines of the surgical/anesthesia team, providing high quality anesthesia services with good surgical patient outcomes. Upon completion of their education which includes a minimum of 2,000 clinical hours of training, they receive a Master's degree. Additionally, they receive certification after successful completion of the certifying exam administered by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants.

Physician anesthesiologists and surgeons have worked well with CAAs for many years; permitting licensure of this qualified health care provider would be beneficial to Nebraska's citizens. As such, we urge you to support CAA licensure in Nebraska. Should any of your members or staff have further questions, the ACS would be more than happy to act as a resource on this important matter. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS
Executive Director
American College of Surgeons

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