Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
12110 N. Pecos St. Suite 220 | Westminster CO 80234
Ph: (720) 279-1598 | info@coana.org

August 25, 2022

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

RE: Non Support of Credentialing Application to License Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Nebraska

On behalf of Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetist (COANA) I am writing to strongly discourage support of Licensure for Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAA) in Nebraska.

CRNAs provide the same high quality, safe, and cost-effective care to that of anesthesiologists.[1] Moreover, in Colorado as in Nebraska, rural areas depend disproportionately on CRNA services for anesthesia and pain management care and the surgical, procedural and labor and delivery services that such care affords.[2] Recently the Nebraska Society of Anesthesiologists (NSA) wrote a support letter stating that CAA have "identical patient care responsibilities and technical capabilities- a view in harmony with their equivalent treatment under the Medicare Program." As you have seen from the many letters of Rural Hospitals, this is not the case. The NSA also stated that other neighboring states, such as Colorado Licensed CAAs.

Since the licensure of CAA's in Colorado, we have not seen an increase in access to care by adding another type of anesthesia provider. What we have seen in our state after licensure of CAAs is an increase in workplace dissatisfaction due to professional politics, withdrawal of SRNA students at clinical sites, and the inability to recruit CRNA to companies along the Urban Corridor of Colorado thus leading to inability to staff many of the contractual Surgical Service Sites resulting in loss of Anesthesia contracts and delayed patient care. Licensure of CAAs in the state of Colorado has not had the impact that the NSA would lead you to believe.

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[1] Negrusa B, Hogan PF, Warner JT, Schroeder CH, Pang B. Scope of Practice Laws and Anesthesia Complications: No Measurable Impact of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Expanded Scope of Practice on Anesthesia-related Complications. *Med Care*. (May 20, 2016). http://journals.lww.com/lww-medicalcare/Abstract/publishahead/Scope_of_Practice_Laws_and_Anesthesia.98905.aspx; and B. Dulisse and J. Cromwell, "No Harm Found When Nurse Anesthetists Work Without Physician Supervision." *Health Affairs*. 2010; 29: 1469-1475. http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/29/8/1469.full.pdf ; and Lewis SR, Nicholson A, Smith AF, Alderson P. Physician anaesthetists versus non-physician providers of anaesthesia for surgical patients. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2014, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD010357. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010357.pub2. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010357.pub2/abstract.

[2] Negrusa op cit, http://journals.lww.com/lww-medicalcare/Abstract/publishahead/Scope_of_Practice_Laws_and_Anesthesia.98905.aspx

On behalf of CoANA, I encourage you to not support the credentialing applications to license CAAs in Nebraska. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in the email above.

Respectfully,

Kaycee Simon, CRNA, MSN
President
Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthesiology