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Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Licensure Unit
Attn: Technical Review Committee
PO Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

Attn: Technical Review Committee, Board of Health, and Dr. Anthone,

My name is Tonya Likely and I work as a Registered Nurse in Omaha, Nebraska. I have worked in Georgia with Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAs). I am writing to urge you to recommend against the licensing of AAs in Nebraska.

I prefer working in the operating room with Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) versus AAs because the AAs have to wait on the the anesthesiologist to perform tasks or make decisions. The AAs I have worked with were not confident during emergencies. They were more worried about getting the anesthesiologist in the room and the operating room staff had to give them instructions and help them stabilize the patient. This puts great stress on the other staff and is a safety concern.

CRNAs have the knowledge and skills to anticipate problems and care for patients immediately. CRNAs are able to lead and delegate tasks to the operating room staff in an emergent or critical situation. During my nursing travel assignments, I try to avoid assignments that have AAs in their facilities because it is a lot of extra stress and work for the circulating nurses.

I strongly urge you to recommend against the licensing of AAs in Nebraska.

Regards,


Tonya Likely RN