



For Immediate Release

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With Health Care Workforce Shortage Looming, It's Time to Modernize Laws
HB 375 and SB 462 filed to allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists to practice independently

Tallahassee, FL --As Florida residents continues to grow and age, our state is facing a critical and dangerous shortage of anesthesia professionals.

But a simple solution is at hand. More than 175 members of the [Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology \(FANA\)](#) visited Tallahassee this week to urge members of the legislature to consider and approve [House Bill 375](#) and [Senate Bill 462](#), sponsored by [Representative Mike Giallombardo](#), and [Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez](#), which free Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, (CRNAs) to practice independently and puts patients first by ending archaic requirements that exist in just five other states.

In addition, House leadership is prioritizing sweeping changes to health care laws to address workforce shortages, including allowing APRNs, CRNAs and other health care professionals to practice to the full extent of their education and training. [House Bill 693](#), also known as the Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act, is sponsored by [Rep. Mike Redondo](#).

“It is great news that our state’s legislative leaders are on the side of patients. It is past time to eliminate these antiquated laws and rules that reduce patients’ access to care,” said FANA President Ryan Shores, DNP, CRNA, APRN. “As Florida continues to grow and age, it is so critical to our highly skilled professionals can serve Floridians in hospitals and surgery centers, in small towns or large cities in all 67 counties,” Shores said.

There are more than 6,400 CRNAs in Florida, each highly trained with eight to ten years of healthcare and anesthesia education, more than 12,000 hours of clinical training, and certification by a national board.

CRNAs practice in every setting where anesthesia is delivered. In rural areas and military settings around the world, they are the primary anesthesia providers with specialized skills

in advanced airway and ventilator management, hemodynamic monitoring, and patient assessment.

In 44 states, CRNAs may provide anesthesia to the full scope of their training. But Florida, alone among the nation's six largest states, mandates approval by a physician who may not even be in the same area code while patients wait.

The problem:

- > The need for surgical services for Floridians aged 65 and over is expected to increase by nearly 40 percent in the next ten years.
- > The need will continue to be even more critical in Florida's rural areas where there are few if any practicing physicians.
- > Compounding the challenge is that more than one-third of physician anesthesiologists are older than 60 and nearing retirement age. Meanwhile, more than 40 percent of CRNAs are under 40.

"Florida has become an international beacon of freedom by putting people ahead of paperwork," said SB 462 sponsor Sen. Rodriguez. "This legislation empowers CRNAs to practice independently, strengthens our healthcare workforce, and encourages Florida-trained providers to stay and serve patients, especially in rural and underserved communities, where access to emergency care is critical."

"This common-sense bill not only cuts ridiculous red tape, it increases patient options as more hospitals and surgery centers will be able to provide this critical emergency service," said HB 375 sponsor Rep. Giallombardo. "I appreciate the tireless work of CRNAs and look forward to increasing patient health by liberating them from unnecessary regulations."

"By leveraging the expertise of CRNAs, Florida can ensure reliable access to high-quality anesthesia care in hospitals and surgery centers across the state — especially in small towns and rural communities where access to surgical and emergency services can mean the difference between timely treatment and delayed care," added Shores. "We appreciate the tireless support of Sen. Rodriguez, Rep. Giallombardo, and all lawmakers working to remove unnecessary barriers and expand access to care for all Floridians."

To learn more about the important care CRNAs provide in all healthcare settings visit www.crnas4safeanesthesia.com/fana2026crnadays/.

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About the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Founded in 1936, The Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FANA) represents more than 6,400 nurse anesthesiology professionals. FANA advocates for its patients and members in legislative and governmental affairs and serves as a resource for CRNAs, the nursing and medical

professions, hospitals, healthcare facilities, and others interested in anesthesia care. For more information visit www.fana.org.