

NO. R-28. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS IN VERMONT'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

(H.C.R.29)

Offered by: Representative Keenan of St. Albans City and Pugh of S. Burlington

Whereas, nurse anesthetists were the first professional group to provide anesthesia in the United States and are the oldest recognized group of advanced practice registered nurse specialists, and

Whereas, nurse anesthetists have completed a graduate-level educational program in a nationally accredited program of nurse anesthesia and after graduation are qualified to take the national certifying examination to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), and

Whereas, CRNAs are required to take and pass the national certification examination administered by the National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists, and

Whereas, CRNAs must recertify every two years in order to continue to practice the specialty of anesthesia, and

Whereas, CRNAs provide anesthesia services in all settings in which anesthesia is delivered, and

Whereas, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, more than 65 percent of all rural hospitals rely on CRNAs to provide anesthesia care, and without these advanced practice nurses, some 1,500 facilities would be unable to maintain trauma stabilization and surgical and

obstetrical capabilities, forcing many rural Americans to travel long distances for such services, and

Whereas, each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physicians' offices, the medical facilities of the U.S. Military, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the U.S. Public Health Service are the hands-on providers of approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients in the United States, and in rural communities the percentage is even higher, and

Whereas, CRNAs serve Vermonters by providing needed anesthesia care in hospitals, medical facilities including the White River Junction VA Medical Center, and physicians' offices, and

Whereas, in Vermont, CRNAs work with all levels of patients in 10 of the 13 hospitals in Vermont in which surgical services are provided, and

Whereas, the week of January 25, 2009 has been designated as Nurse Anesthetists Week, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of nurse anesthetists in Vermont's health care system as the profession celebrates Nurse Anesthetists Week beginning January 25, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists.