

No. R-290. House concurrent resolution recognizing Nurse Anesthetists Week in Vermont.

(H.C.R.218)

Offered by: Representative Keenan of St. Albans City, Acinapura of Brandon, Crawford of Burke, Heath of Westford, Helm of Castleton, Howrigan of Fairfield, Johnson of South Hero, Larson of Burlington, Manwaring of Wilmington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Minter of Waterbury, Till of Jericho, Wheeler of Derby and Winters of Williamstown

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, these health care professionals 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 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), and

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

Whereas, every two years CRNAs must recertify 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, and the medical facilities of the U.S. 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 Vermont Veterans Affairs 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 24, 2010, has been designated as National Nurse Anesthetists Week, and

Whereas, 40,000 CRNAs across the United States, including 43 active CRNAs in Vermont, are part of the solution to health care reform, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the week of January 24, 2010, as Nurse Anesthetists Week in Vermont and celebrates the importance of

Vermont's Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and their role in providing quality health care for the public, 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.