

**No. R-273. House concurrent resolution recognizing the important health care contribution of nurse anesthetists in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.204)

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Dakin of Chester, O'Brien of Richmond, and Spengler of Colchester

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

Whereas, these health care professionals have completed graduate-level education in one of the nationally accredited programs of nurse anesthesia, which qualify them to take the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) examination, and

Whereas, CRNAs are required to pass the national certification examination administered by the National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists in order to practice the art of anesthesia and must recertify every two years, and

Whereas, they practice in traditional hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; as well as U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities, and

Whereas, nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia in all wars involving U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airmen, since the Civil War, and

Whereas, CRNAs are the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America, enabling health care facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services, and, in some states, CRNAs are nearly the exclusive anesthetic providers in rural hospitals, and

Whereas, nurse anesthetists provide needed anesthesia care in hospitals, medical facilities, including the Vermont Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to Vermont military personnel serving in Afghanistan, and

Whereas, in Vermont, 45 CRNAs work in nine of the State's 13 hospitals in which surgical services are provided, and are part of the economic solution to health care reform, and

Whereas, the week of January 19, 2014 is designated as National Nurse Anesthetists Week, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the important health care contribution of nurse anesthetists in Vermont, 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.