

Memorandum

To: House Human Services Committee
From: Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists (VANA)
Date: April 12, 2016
Re: S.243 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Our organization, the Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists (VANA), is supportive of S.243. We are pleased to note the inclusion of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in the bill.

An APRN, such as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) provides care following surgical procedures on a daily basis for patients with acute pain. CRNAs also manage patients who have chronic pain issues who require anesthesia for tests and procedures.

We have a suggested amendment related to the composition of the Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council, specifically the 2 positions related to APRNs in Section 14 of the bill - 18 V.S.A. § 4255(U) and (Z). We believe that the APRNs appointed under both of these sections should have clinical experience with patients who are dealing with acute or chronic pain. It is for this reason that we propose the following amendments:

Proposed Amendment

18 V.S.A. § 4255 Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council

(b)(1) The Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council shall consist of the following members:

(U) a member of the Vermont Board of Nursing Subcommittee on APRN Practice, who shall be an advanced practice registered nurse who has clinical experience that includes working with patients dealing with acute or chronic pain;

(Z) an advanced practice registered nurse full-time faculty member from the University of Vermont's College of Nursing and Health Sciences with a current clinical practice that includes caring for patients with acute or chronic pain.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.