

**No. R-38. House concurrent resolution designating January 22–28, 2017 as National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.21)

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City and Dunn of Essex

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

Whereas, an aspiring nurse anesthetist must complete graduate-level education in one of the nationally accredited programs of nurse anesthesia, and on passing the national certification examination is qualified as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), subject to biennial recertification, and

Whereas, CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including 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, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities, and

Whereas, nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia to the American military 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 specialized care, and in some states are the sole anesthesia providers in nearly 100 percent of the rural hospitals, and

Whereas, CRNAs serve Vermonters at the Vermont Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, physician's offices, and in nine of the 13 hospitals in Vermont in which surgical services are provided, and

Whereas, 50,000 CRNAs across the United States, including 50 active CRNAs in Vermont, are part of the economic solution to health care reform, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates the week of January 22–28, 2017 as National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week 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.