

Dear Vermont Representatives,

I'm writing to caution you against removing the states requirement that APRNs practice in collaboration with a physician for at least 24 months and 2,400 hours, or at least 12 months and 1,600 hours for new roles or population foci. I believe this is H.684.

As a practicing anesthesiologist in the state of Vermont I work closely with CRNAs. I have the utmost respect for our CRNAs, however, there is a big difference between a CRNA fresh out of school and a seasoned veteran! I understand that these are advanced practice nurses who have worked in the ICU, which makes them better providers, but this does not make up for the years of experience under a highly trained physician. Our residents have done 4 years of medical school which includes 2 years working alongside physicians in clinical practice. These physicians then complete one year of internship in surgery, medicine, family practice or various other fields before completing 3 years of general anesthesia residency. This means 36 months of anesthesia training under a physician before they can practice independently in the State of Vermont. Even with this training, many physicians go on to complete specialty training in pediatric anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, cardiac anesthesia, chronic pain management and intensive care to name a few. All we ask of APRNs is 24 months!

Since the time I completed my training in pediatric anesthesia almost 5 years ago, I have learned so much. I feel that working in a team based model has made me a stronger practitioner! I think that the 24 months for APRNs is invaluable time to grow as providers. I understand the need for independently practicing APRNs, especially in rural Vermont. I strongly believe, however, that for the safety of Vermonters, we should continue the practice of requiring that APRNs practice in collaboration with a physician for at least 24 months and 2,400 hours, or at least 12 months and 1,600 hours for new roles or population foci before letting APRN, CRNAs included, practice independently in our State!

Thank you for listening and reading.

Sincerely,
Emily Stebbins, MD

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