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**Date:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 8:38:50 PM  
**To:** "Claire Ayer" <[CAyer@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:CAyer@leg.state.vt.us)>  
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**Subject:** Support for CRNAs

Good evening Senator Ayer.

I am an Orthopedic surgeon who has practiced in Vermont for over 20 years. I currently work at Copley hospital (with many CRNA's), but have worked at UVM for over 14 yrs and did my residency there. I have worked very closely with many CRNA's over the years at both hospitals. I feel very qualified to comment on the Bill H.684 - Advanced Practitioner guidelines, that is currently being discussed at the state level.

CRNA's are incredible people with many yrs of training and commitment . It typically requires over 8 yrs of training to become a CRNA, almost as long as it takes to become an anesthesiologist. CRNAs are very talented, skilled and reliable. Over the years, I have found most CRNAs to be as (or more) competent and skilled than many anesthesiologists. I would (and do everyday) trust my life (or my patients life) with anyone of the CRNAs that I currently work with. In fact, I recommend them to my patients all the time.

My understanding is that recent testimony from some physicians (?Anesthesiologists) insinuated that APRNs (CRNAs) are "unsafe practitioners". This is so wrong. They are typically extremely competent and caring professionals. In this state, and many others, we are significantly dependent on APRN/CRNAs to run the OR and they perform life-saving airway management in ERs and on the hospital floors. It is extremely difficult to find an anesthesiologist who wants to work like CRNA. They take call independently at probably every community hospital and are vital care providers in this state. We can NOT find or recruit any new Anesthesia docs to Vermont for a number of reasons (limited supply & salary to name a few). CRNAs, on the other hand are available, affordable, reliable, and just make sense. And, in most cases, they should NOT require "on-site" supervision by more advanced practitioners like an Anesthesiologist. The implications of that are not acceptable. That would make on-call coverage, particularly on weekends, nearly impossible..

Please consider APRN/CRNAs as competent, independent and vital providers of health care in Vermont. We need them!

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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