



American Association of
NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

December 4, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA), I write to you today regarding the priorities of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in any upcoming, must-pass legislation. AANA is the professional association for CRNAs, representing over 65,000 CRNAs—nearly 90% of nurse anesthetists in the United States. CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients every year, including in facilities run by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

I urge the leaders of both chambers to protect the accessibility of healthcare for civilian patients and veterans across the nation. **As must-pass, year-end bills begin to take shape, to protect veterans AANA urges leadership to exclude any language included in H.R.3347/S.2070.** This bill would:

- Subvert the VA's ability to develop a workforce that meets their needs;
- Artificially constrain the anesthesia provider workforce at VA facilities;
- Leave under resourced communities in rural and urban areas without critical anesthesia care; and
- Create backlogs, delays, and cancellations for veterans seeking the medical care that they need, leading to increased complications and difficulties that can be avoided.

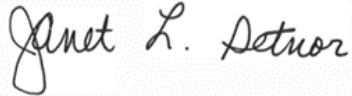
To address the healthcare needs of the civilian population, AANA would strongly recommend the inclusion of language in the *Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act (H.R.2713/S.2418)*. Provisions included in this bill would:

- Eliminate outdated legislative language that hinders the ability of APRNs—including CRNAs—to provide high-quality care to Medicare and Medicaid patients;
- Ensure that all APRNs can practice to the full extent of their education and licensure;
- Improve healthcare accessibility for low-income, rural, and urban areas; and
- Allow healthcare facilities to develop a workforce that fits their needs.

AANA and our members are dedicated to delivering high-quality, timely care to all of our patients. To do our jobs to our greatest capabilities, it is imperative that existing barriers are removed and new ones are

not erected. As the 118th Congress comes to a close, we urge that these recommendations are implemented so we can continue to act as trusted, exemplary, and experienced healthcare providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet L. Setnor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.

Janet Setnor, MSN, CRNA, Col. (Ret), USAFR, NC

President, AANA