



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: [Alia Faraj-Johnson](#)**

**Phone: 850.212.8317**

**Sen. Rodriguez and Rep. Giallombardo File SB 718 and HB 649 to Allow Florida CRNAs Autonomous Practice, Removing Barriers by Modernizing Health Care**

*~ The measures would allow CRNAs to practice to the full extent of their education and training without illusory physician supervision ~*

**Tallahassee, FL** – With Florida facing a looming shortage of tens of thousands of physicians and nurses, and by highlighting the important role that Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) play within the state’s health system, [Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez](#) and [Rep. Mike Giallombardo](#) have filed common sense proposals that would increase access to health care, lower health care costs and maintain patient quality of care. The proposed measures, SB 718 and HB 649 would allow CRNAs to practice to the full extent of their education and training without illusory physician supervision.

CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses with a specialty in anesthesia who provide services in every setting where anesthesia services are provided. Forty-three states do not restrict CRNA practice in their Nurse Practice Acts, allowing them to practice independently, to their full scope, without unnecessary barriers.

However, Florida and just a handful of states still require a general paper protocol from a physician or dentist, placing an unnecessary barrier to care.

“Florida has more than 6,400 CRNAs working tirelessly to provide anesthesia in hospitals and surgical centers in each of our 67 counties,” said Laura Molina, DNP, CRNA, and President of the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FANA). “Removing wasteful barriers that are keeping these highly trained anesthesia specialists from providing quality care will lower costs and free up time and expenses that will allow patients to undergo surgery safely with an emphasis on effective anesthesia care.”

CRNAs are one of the U.S. healthcare system's highly sought-after anesthesia care providers, who administer anesthesia in the military, hospitals, and surgical and clinical settings in collaboration with specified licensed health care practitioners. However, Florida is struggling to retain CRNA graduates, and Florida's antiquated law is driving recent graduates to other states, further exacerbating the shortage of health care workers.

A FANA survey of 126 current resident registered nurse anesthetists (RRNAs) in Florida found that 55.9% of those planning to leave said supervision laws played into their decision to move to another state. However, 83.1% said they'd consider returning if Florida's autonomous practice laws were changed.

[SB 718](#) and [HB 649](#), Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, would remove those obstacles and increase the level of care provided to patients, often in crisis situations where immediate attention is critical.

"Florida continues to grow, and our health care system must grow as well," said Sen. Rodriguez. "We have already experienced health care costs forcing rural hospitals and health care providers to shut down or limit anesthesia care. We cannot accept this. All Floridians deserve access to the highest level of patient care with lower costs. This commonsense bill will help us move closer to that goal."

House sponsor Rep. Giallombardo said these important changes will improve access to care and affordability for patients.

"I have had the honor to serve our country and to see first-hand the incredible talent and compassion CRNAs bring to the front lines," said Giallombardo. "Floridians deserve the same access to that level of care. By removing barriers that hinder the work of CRNAs, we can increase availability of nurse anesthesiology professionals which will reduce health care costs and help meet the needs of Floridians now and in the future."

CRNAs trace their roots back to the battlefields of the Civil War. They remain a key part of military health care - with full practice authority in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force - working on the front lines, ships, aircraft, and bases around the world. They are the predominant providers of anesthesia on forward surgical teams and in combat support hospitals, where 90 percent of forward surgical teams are staffed by CRNAs.

As [Health News Florida](#) reported in January 2025, Florida is facing a shortage of 18,000 physicians and 60,000 nurses by 2035.

CRNAs are a highly educated and elite group, completing eight to ten years of healthcare and anesthesia education with more than 10,000 hours of clinical training and pass a rigorous national exam to earn certification. Graduates must pass the

National Certification Examination before employment and 100 percent of CRNAs are board certified.

More than 65,000 CRNAs nationally, and more than 6,400 in Florida, practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered. They provide comprehensive anesthesia care to patients before, during and after surgical and obstetrical procedures and are the primary anesthesia professionals in rural and medically underserved areas.

To learn more about how CRNAs can expand the critical care workforce and increase access to care please [click here](#) to watch these short videos. Or you can visit [www.fana.org](http://www.fana.org) or [www.CRNAs4SafeAnesthesia.com](http://www.CRNAs4SafeAnesthesia.com).

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### **About the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology**

*Founded in 1936, The Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FANA) represents more than 6,400 nurse anesthesiology professionals. FANA advocates for its patients and members in legislative and governmental affairs and serves as a resource for CRNAs, the nursing and medical professions, hospitals, healthcare facilities, and others interested in anesthesia care. For more information visit [www.fana.org](http://www.fana.org).*

### **About Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists**

*CRNAs must first graduate with a nursing degree, which includes at least 4 years of healthcare education. They then obtain an average of 2.9 years of nursing experience in a critical care unit such as an ICU prior to starting anesthesia school (36-42 months). This equates to between 7 to 8.5 years of education and training, with an average of 9,369 clinical hours of training and hands-on experience with patients of all ages and medical conditions prior to being Board certified. CRNAs, and all APRNs, are ready to answer the call to Florida's healthcare shortage and administer services independently and safely. In fact, there have been numerous independent studies, which have shown there is no difference in the safety or quality of care when a CRNA administers anesthesia services, compared to physicians administering those same services.*

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