

April 14, 2015

Hello all,

I'm sorry I wasn't able to be at the hearing this morning. I was at work providing anesthesia care.

Here are a few words I hope can answer any questions that were raised this morning.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) licensed as independent practitioners. CRNAs practice both autonomously and in collaboration with a variety of health providers to deliver high-quality, holistic, evidence-based anesthesia and pain care services. Nurse anesthetists care for patients at all acuity levels across the lifespan in a variety of settings for procedures including surgical, obstetrical, diagnostic, therapeutic, and pain management.

In 2001, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) changed the federal physician supervision rule for nurse anesthetists to allow state governors to opt out of this facility reimbursement requirement. 18 states, including Alaska in 2003, have opted-out of physician supervision rules. 40 states (including Alaska) have no statutory requirement for physician supervision.

In Alaska, CRNAs practice as the sole anesthesia provider in the communities of Kodiak, Sitka, Bethel, Homer, and Ketchikan.

Additional resources: AANA.com, AlaskaCRNA.com

If you have any questions regarding CRNAs please feel free to contact me

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