

The logo for the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AKANA) features the word "AKANA" in a large, stylized, serif font. Above the letters are several white stars of varying sizes, set against a dark, gradient background that resembles a night sky.

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

C/O ALASKA NURSES ASSOCIATION - 3701 E. TUDOR RD., SUITE 208 - ANCHORAGE, AK 99507

February 22, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel.

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists in support of SB 53, "an act related to advanced practice registered nursing." This bill updates the 34 year old title "advanced nurse practitioner" (ANP) and nurse anesthetist (NA) to "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN) and aligns Alaska statute with a nationwide movement called "The Consensus Model."

Under current Alaska law the title "ANP" includes nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and certified clinical nurse specialists. Nurse anesthetists are a separate category of clinician. The national Consensus Model creates an umbrella title for advanced practice nurses and brings all four specialties under the title "APRN."

The Consensus Model, promulgated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, seeks uniformity in APRN licensure, accreditation, certification, and education. Uniformity will expedite insurance reimbursement by eliminating confusion about service provider; it will allow APRNs from other states to more easily obtain AK licensure, and vice versa.

Alaska is home to approximately 110 CRNAs. When SB 53 becomes law we will continue to provide the same quality anesthesia care to Alaskan patients, just as we have for decades.

SB 53 does not change scope of practice. Nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists will continue to provide the same high quality, safe, accessible care they have provided to Alaskans across the state for 34 years. They will just have a new name: APRN.

Thank you very much for your advocacy on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Worrell".

Jeff Worrell, LtC USAF (retired)  
CRNA, MSN  
President- Alaska Association of Nurse Anesthetists