



## South Carolina Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

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July 24, 2019

The Honorable Senator Danny Verdin  
Chairman, Senate Medical Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Verdin:

On behalf of the South Carolina Academy of Anesthesiologists Assistants (SC-AAA), I am writing to ask you to oppose S.563, which would remove the physician supervision requirement for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and permit them to practice independently.

The SC-AAA supports the practice of the medical specialty of anesthesiology delivered in the Anesthesia Care Team (ACT) model. As Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) we are highly skilled health professionals who work under the direction of licensed anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care plans. We work exclusively within the anesthesia care team and have been licensed in South Carolina for almost 20 years.

Along with our fellow members of the Anesthesia Care Team, certified registered nurse anesthetists, we are both defined as "non-physician anesthetists" within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services section of the Code of Federal Regulations. In South Carolina and across the country, both CAAs and CRNAs have the same duties in the delivery of care in the anesthesia care team, and we are compensated with identical salary and benefit packages.

South Carolina's citizens rely on the General Assembly to pass and maintain laws and regulations that protect the public safety. Physician supervision of nurse anesthetists is part of that public safety. Please oppose the unfounded and unnecessary efforts of the nurse anesthetists as outlined in their bill S.563.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Koty Price'.

Koty Price

President of the SC-AAA