



## Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Written Testimony of  
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S.B. No.36  
An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to  
Improve Access to Health Care

Friday, February 28, 2014  
Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health Committee

Good day Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 36, "An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Health Care." My name is Pauleen Consebido and I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Government Relations Committee Co-chair, Immediate Past President of the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists and a member of the APRN Scope Review Committee. I am also a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). I am here today on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists in support of Senate Bill No. 36.

Nurse anesthetists are a part of Connecticut's approximately 4,000 licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. There are more than 45,000 nurse anesthetists across the United States. Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients for 150 years. Nurse anesthetists provide anesthesia in every setting in which anesthesia care is delivered including hospitals, obstetric units, ambulatory surgical centers, office based practices, the U.S. military and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities.

The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists are not seeking a legislative change to our section of the statute. Anesthesia delivery provided by nurse anesthetists serve our patients, the citizens of Connecticut, well. At this time, Connecticut CRNAs do not experience similar concerns with access to health care as our APRN colleagues.

However, CANA supports our fellow APRNs in their effort to increase access to quality health care for the citizens of Connecticut as the number of insured individuals and families is expected to increase with full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Educational standards that APRNs must achieve ensures public safety and this is supported by national data. APRNs are part of the solution to the concern of access to health care. This legislation does just that, promoting greater access to quality health care.

I thank you for the opportunity to address the committee regarding this important legislation.