



## Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Written Testimony of  
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Chair, Government Relations Committee  
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Public Health Committee  
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**HB 5625, An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery**

Good day Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and the distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Donna Sanchez. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Today, I come here on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA) to testify on Proposed House Bill 5625, An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery.

The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists has serious concerns regarding this bill because it seems to restrict the scope of practice of healthcare professionals by defining what constitutes "surgery."

Everyone is concerned by the rising cost of healthcare. There may be fear that without cost containment and proper access within our healthcare system, healthcare will be out of reach for many despite the legal mandate.

While the intention of this legislation is not to restrict Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and other healthcare providers, the proposed language in this bill could very well impact every healthcare provider, including physicians. Restrictions on healthcare providers scope of practices will translate to restricted access to healthcare for the citizens of Connecticut.

As a provider of anesthesia services for a majority of surgical procedures, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are an integral part of the surgical care team. This definition will change the care that we provide to our patients, and has the potential to impede on best surgical outcomes. The safest and best delivery of anesthesia services and other services for Connecticut residents is achieved by continuing to allow all healthcare providers to practice to the fullest extent of their training and licensure.

The definition of surgery as proposed in this bill is very broad and its purpose unclear. There is a better process in place to ensure that the language of the bill conveys its purpose to all healthcare providers and translates into language that best protects and serves Connecticut residents.

Public Act 11-209 established a procedure to review scope of practice requests. This proposal and its far-reaching impact most certainly should come before the Department of Public Health for a thorough scope of practice review. This process will ensure that all impacted healthcare providers will have an opportunity to ask questions and proponents will be given the opportunity to provide the necessary answers. The General Assembly put the scope of practice review process in place for proposal just like this one. Therefore, CANA recommends that this process be given a chance to work before the General Assembly considers adopting this legislation.

At the end of a scope of practice review, the resulting language would better reflect the needs of all qualified healthcare providers ensuring they will be able to continue practicing to the full extent of their training, scope and the law. This will protect Connecticut's residents' ability to access affordable safe healthcare.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to present this testimony. I would be glad to answer any questions.