

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2070

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from replacing physician anesthesiologists with certified registered nurse anesthetists under the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2023

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from replacing physician anesthesiologists with certified registered nurse anesthetists under the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Lifesaving An-
5 esthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON REPLACEMENT OF PHYSICIAN AN-**
2 **ESTHESIOLOGISTS UNDER HEALTH CARE**
3 **SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
6 fairs may not—

7 (1) modify the policy of the Department of Vet-
8 erans Affairs relating to anesthesia care in a manner
9 that would provide any medical professional other
10 than a physician anesthesiologist with full practice
11 authority for the furnishment of anesthesia care to
12 veterans under the laws administered by the Sec-
13 retary of Veterans Affairs (including by providing
14 certified registered nurse anesthetists with such full
15 practice authority); or

16 (2) finalize, implement, or enforce the provi-
17 sions relating to anesthesia care of the proposed rule
18 titled “Advanced Practice Registered Nurses” and
19 published in the Federal Register on May 25, 2016
20 (81 Fed. Reg. 33155), or any substantially similar
21 rule.

22 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
23 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Sec-
24 retary of Veterans Affairs to issue any short-term emer-

- 1 gency order relating to the safety, care, or well-being of
- 2 veterans during surgical procedures.

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