

No. R-19. House concurrent resolution recognizing the important health care contribution of nurse anesthetists in Vermont.

(H.C.R.12)

Offered by: Representative LaClair of Barre Town

Whereas, nurse anesthetists were the first group of American health care professionals to administer anesthesia to surgical patients, and

Whereas, this specialized field of care subsequently became the first clinical nursing specialty, and

Whereas, nurse anesthetists have been primary providers of anesthesia for the U.S. military since the Civil War and recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

Whereas, in 1931, nurse anesthetist Agatha Hodgins, who previously had directed the formation of the Lakeside Hospital School of Anesthesia in Cleveland, Ohio, organized the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists, which in 1939 was renamed the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and

Whereas, to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), one must earn a bachelor's degree of science in nursing, qualify as a registered nurse, work in an acute care nursing position for a minimum of one year, complete graduate-level education in one of the nationally accredited programs in nurse anesthesia, and pass the examination that the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists administers, and

Whereas, CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, such as traditional hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, Critical Access Hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists and podiatrists, as well as working for the U.S. Public Health Service and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and

Whereas, nearly 53,000 CRNAs across the United States, including those who practice in Vermont, are part of the solution for lowering the cost of health care, and

Whereas, the week of January 20–26, 2019 has been designated as National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the important health care contribution of nurse anesthetists in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists.