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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 257 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, FONTANA, MARTIN, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY,  
EICHELBERGER, DINNIMAN, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, SCHWANK, COSTA,  
BARTOLOTTA, SCARNATI, FOLMER, SCAVELLO, McILHINNEY,  
VULAKOVICH AND BROWNE, JANUARY 22, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 22, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 21 through 27, 2018, as "Nurse  
2 Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Nurse anesthetists were the first professional group  
4 to provide anesthesia in the United States and are the oldest  
5 recognized group of advanced practice registered nurse  
6 specialists; and

7 WHEREAS, These registered nurses have completed a graduate-  
8 level educational program in a nationally accredited program of  
9 nurse anesthesia and after graduation are qualified to take the  
10 national certifying examination; and

11 WHEREAS, Graduates who successfully pass the examination can  
12 use the title Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and  
13 all graduates of nurse anesthesia educational programs receive a  
14 master's degree upon completion of the rigorous academic and  
15 clinical curriculum; and

16 WHEREAS, CRNAs provide anesthesia services in all settings in  
17 which anesthesia is delivered and are not required by Federal or

1 State law to be supervised or directed by physician  
2 anesthesiologists; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the American Association of Nurse  
4 Anesthetists, more than two-thirds of all rural hospitals rely  
5 on CRNAs to provide anesthesia care, and without these advanced  
6 practice nurses, some 1,500 facilities would be unable to  
7 maintain trauma stabilization and surgical and obstetrical  
8 capabilities, forcing many rural Americans to travel long  
9 distances for such services; and

10 WHEREAS, Each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory  
11 surgical centers, physician's offices and the medical facilities  
12 of the United States military, Veterans Health Administration  
13 and Public Health Service are the hands-on providers of  
14 approximately 32 million anesthetics given to patients in the  
15 United States; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of January 21  
17 through 27, 2018, as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania  
18 to recognize the importance of certified registered nurse  
19 anesthetists and their role in providing quality health care for  
20 the public.