A RESOLUTION

Designating the week of January 29 through February 4, 2017, as "Physician Anesthesiologist Week" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has strong roots in the field of anesthesiology, beginning in 1773 with Joseph Priestley, a Pennsylvanian who first discovered nitrous oxide, which is still being used today as an anesthetic; and

WHEREAS, Since this breakthrough, the field of anesthesiology has grown into a medical specialty where physician anesthesiologists must complete 12,000 to 16,000 hours of extensive training prior to practicing independently; and

WHEREAS, Physician anesthesiologists play a critical role in a patient's well-being before, during and after surgical procedures; and

WHEREAS, A physician anesthesiologist's duties include evaluating a patient's current health prior to receiving anesthesia to ensure the best outcome, administering anesthesia, monitoring the patient during surgery and assessing the patient after the procedure is completed; and
WHEREAS, Annually in the United States, more than 100 million surgeries and procedures are performed with anesthesia with approximately 1.8 million of those procedures being performed in hospitals in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Anesthesia is safer than ever before, yet there remains potential for complications and side effects during procedures, and physician anesthesiologists have the training and expertise to help minimize these risks, monitor for any problems and take quick action if necessary; and

WHEREAS, During surgeries or procedures, physician anesthesiologists are specifically trained to respond to emergencies and ensure the best patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists is a physician organization with more than 1,400 members dedicated to promoting the highest standards of the profession of anesthesiology, fostering excellence through continuing medical education and serving as an advocate for anesthesiologists and their patients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of January 29 to February 4, 2017, as "Physician Anesthesiologist Week" in Pennsylvania.