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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 60 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY CULVER, MARCH 6, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 6, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of February 20 through February 26, 2023,  
2 as "Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant Week" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, physician leaders in the medical  
5 specialty of anesthesiology recognized the existence of staffing  
6 shortages; and

7 WHEREAS, To meet growing demands and to accommodate the  
8 increasing complexity of anesthesia and surgery, three  
9 anesthesiologists proposed the precursor to what is now the  
10 certified anesthesiologist assistant (CAA); and

11 WHEREAS, CAAs are highly skilled health professionals who  
12 work under the direction of licensed physician anesthesiologists  
13 to implement anesthesia care plans and work exclusively within  
14 the Anesthesia Care Team model described by the American Society  
15 of Anesthesiologists; and

16 WHEREAS, All CAA students must have earned a baccalaureate  
17 degree with premedical coursework to be admitted into a CAA  
18 training program and must complete a comprehensive didactic and  
19 clinical program at the graduate school level; and

1       WHEREAS, CAA training programs must include a minimum of 24  
2 to 27 months in a Master's level program accredited by the  
3 Commission for the Accreditation of Allied Health Educational  
4 Programs which must be based at, or in collaboration with, a  
5 university that has a medical school and academic  
6 anesthesiologist physician faculty; and

7       WHEREAS, An average of 600 hours of classroom/laboratory  
8 education, 2,600 hours of clinical anesthesia education, and the  
9 administration of more than 600 anesthetics, including all types  
10 of surgery, are typically required to successfully complete CAA  
11 training; and

12       WHEREAS, CAAs are trained extensively in the delivery and  
13 maintenance of quality anesthesia care, as well as, advanced  
14 patient monitoring techniques; and

15       WHEREAS, CAAs perform such tasks as administering drugs,  
16 obtaining vascular access, applying and interpreting monitors,  
17 establishing and maintaining patient airways and assisting with  
18 preoperative assessment; and

19       WHEREAS, In 1989, the National Commission for Certification  
20 of Anesthesiologist Assistants was established to create a  
21 national certification process; and

22       WHEREAS, Since 2002, there has been a significant expansion  
23 of CAA education programs in the United States; and

24       WHEREAS, CAAs are authorized to practice in 19 states, the  
25 District of Columbia, the United States Territory of Guam and  
26 the Medicare system; and

27       WHEREAS, CAAs provide anesthesia services for a multitude of  
28 medical procedures every year in the United States; and

29       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Academy of Anesthesiologist  
30 Assistants is dedicated to the ethical advancement of the CAA

1 profession and to creating a better future through innovation,  
2 cutting-edge medicine, advocacy and education; therefore be it  
3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 20  
4 through February 26, 2023, as "Certified Anesthesiologist  
5 Assistant Week" in Pennsylvania.