

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Senators Klausmeier, Brochin, and Kittleman**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Establishing Nurse Anesthetists Week**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the period of January 20, 2008, through January 26,
4 2008, as Nurse Anesthetists Week in recognition of the importance of Certified
5 Registered Nurse Anesthetists and their role in providing quality health care
6 for the public; and generally relating to the establishment of Nurse Anesthetists
7 Week.

8 WHEREAS, Nurse anesthetists were the first professional group to provide
9 anesthesia in the United States and are the oldest recognized group of advanced
10 practice registered nurse specialists; and

11 WHEREAS, These registered nurses have completed a graduate level
12 educational program in a nationally accredited program of nurse anesthesia and, after
13 graduation, are qualified to take the national certifying examination; and

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

18 WHEREAS, CRNAs provide anesthesia services in all settings in which
19 anesthesia is delivered, and are not required by state or federal law to be supervised
20 or directed by physician anesthesiologists; and

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

26 WHEREAS, Each year CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory surgical
27 centers, physician's offices, and the medical facilities of the U.S. military, Veteran's



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1 Administration, and Public Health Service are the hands-on providers of
2 approximately 27 million anesthetics given to patients in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The period of January 20, 2008, through January 26, 2008, has
4 been designated as Nurse Anesthetists Week; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State
6 of Maryland recognizes the week of January 20, 2008, through January 26, 2008, as
7 Nurse Anesthetists Week; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the State of Maryland recognizes the importance of the
9 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and their role in providing quality health care
10 for the public; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
12 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
13 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
14 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.