



The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.

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MEMO IN SUPPORT S4422/A1829 (DeFrancisco/Morelle) Safe Anesthesia Bill

Physician-Anesthesiologists Make a Difference in Patient Care

The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., is committed to preserving the quality of anesthesia care currently provided to all New York State patients. New York State is experiencing unprecedented safe anesthesia care as a result of: (i) more physician-anesthesiologists who are highly trained medical specialists with 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training in anesthesia, pain, and critical care medicine; (ii) use of new technologies; (iii) ongoing research by physician-anesthesiologists; and (iv) maintenance of the physician-led anesthesia care team (where the physician-anesthesiologist or operative physician accepts responsibility for the patient) that is a statewide legal standard embodied in the Health Department's regulations. The physician-led anesthesia care team has resulted in physician-anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists working cooperatively together.

- Current New York State legal standards governing the delivery of anesthesia, as regulated by the New York State Department of Health, should not be weakened or diminished since this body of law provides the appropriate standard and level of flexibility without compromising patient access, health, or safety.

- Since the medical supervision standard embodied in current New York State law has resulted in unprecedented safe anesthesia delivery, there is no valid reason for change. A nurse anesthetist is authorized by Health Department regulations to administer anesthesia in all licensed facilities and permitted by the Office-Based Accreditation Standards to administer anesthesia in the office-based surgical office setting.

- NYSSA believes it is not possible to define the scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist without defining the roles of both the physician-anesthesiologist and the operating physician.

- Furthermore, it is not possible to define the role of the nurse anesthetist without preserving the requirement of supervision. All schools of nurse anesthesia in New York teach the student nurse anesthetist to work under medical direction. Clinical training of student nurse anesthetists provides the direct and personal supervision that the Health Code requires. It provides no training in independent practice. Defining a nurse anesthetist's scope of practice without consideration of the training of the health professional places our citizens at risk.

- The operating room is a unique environment. Each surgery and procedure has risks. When seconds count, when a life hangs in the balance, when medical emergencies or other complications occur, physician-anesthesiologists draw upon their extensive

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LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

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medical education, years of clinical training, and experience to make critical decisions that save lives.

- Physician-anesthesiologists often prevent complications, use their diagnostic skills to evaluate a patient's overall health, and identify and respond to underlying medical conditions.
- Physician-anesthesiologists deliver anesthesia; and/or lead the anesthesia care team; and supervise anesthesiology residents, nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants, and other health care professionals to provide the best possible patient outcomes.
- Nurse anesthetists play an important role on the anesthesia care team, but it is essential to remember: A nurse cannot replace a physician, it's too risky to administer anesthesia without the supervision of a physician.
- Enactment of the DeFrancisco/Morelle bill (S4422/A1829) will preserve and enhance safe anesthesia.

Support medical care by physician anesthesiologists – **vote YES on S4422 (DeFrancisco) and A1829 (Morelle).**

S4422/A1829 (DeFrancisco/Morelle)

Senate:

Sponsor: DeFRANCISCO

Co-sponsors:

Assembly:

Sponsor: MORELLE

Co-sponsors: SCHIMMINGER, ORTIZ, GUNTHER, COOK, LENTOL, ENGLEBRIGHT, STIRPE, ABINANTI, JAFFEE, CUSICK

Multi-sponsors: Crouch, Cymbrowitz Dinowitz, Hikind, Lupinacci, Magee, Magnarelli, Perry, Pretlow, Rivera

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