



# The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.

110 East 40th Street, Suite 300, New York, NY 10016 USA

TELEPHONE: 212-867-7140 | FAX: 212-867-7153 | INTERNATIONAL: +00 followed by number | WEBSITE: [www.nyssa-pga.org](http://www.nyssa-pga.org)

## MEMO IN OPPOSITION Bill S1957/A4500 (Latimer/Gottfried) CRNA Prescription Writing Authority

A bill supported by the New York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NYSANA) to grant to nurse anesthetists prescription writing authority during the “peri-anesthetic” period. This bill is **unnecessary and inconsistent with exiting standards of anesthesia care** because:

- All controlled substances are ordered through the DEA number of the physician-anesthesiologist or operative surgeon, who are mandated by existing New York State Health Code standards to supervise nurse anesthetists.
- Nurse anesthetists lack the training to medically assess surgical patients undergoing anesthesia; therefore:
  - Nurse anesthetists lack the ability to independently select the most suitable drug for a particular patient among the various types of drugs available, including Schedule II drugs, and to make medical judgments as to the causes underlying abnormal patient responses.
  - Supervision and consultation with a physician-anesthesiologist or operative surgeon prior to the administration of anesthetic drugs by a nurse anesthetist is necessary.

The language of this bill is defective for the following reasons:

- Fails to define the “peri-anesthetic period”.<sup>1</sup>
- Fails to restrict the nurse anesthetist’s prescriptive authority to their own patients.

On behalf of New York State physician-anesthesiologists and their patients across the state, we respectfully request your **opposition to this legislation S1957 (Latimer) / A4500 (Gottfried)**.

<sup>1</sup> For example, “peri-anesthesia” nursing is defined by the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) as nursing during preanesthesia and postanesthesia care, ambulatory surgery, and pain management.

### LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

Charles J. Assini, Jr., Esq. | NYSSA Legislative Counsel and Representative | Higgins, Roberts & Suprunowicz, P.C. | 1430 Balltown Road, Schenectady, New York 12309  
TELEPHONE: 518-374-3399 | FAX: 518-374-9416 | E-MAIL: [CJAssini@HRSLaw.us.com](mailto:CJAssini@HRSLaw.us.com) and cc: [GKCarter@HRSLaw.us.com](mailto:GKCarter@HRSLaw.us.com) | WEBSITE: [www.HRSLaw.us.com](http://www.HRSLaw.us.com)

Robert Reid, Shauneen McNally, Marcy Savage | NYSSA Albany Lobbyists | Reid, McNally & Savage, LLC | 1 Commerce Plaza, Suite 402, Albany, New York 12210  
TELEPHONE: 518-465-7330 | FAX: 518-465-0273 | E-MAIL: [Bobr@lobbywr.com](mailto:Bobr@lobbywr.com) and cc: [Kellyk@lobbywr.com](mailto:Kellyk@lobbywr.com) | WEBSITE: [www.lobbywr.com](http://www.lobbywr.com)

S1957/A4500 (Latimer/Gottfried)

Senate:

Sponsor: LATIMER

Co-sponsors:

Assembly:

Sponsor: GOTTFRIED, GUNTHER, PRETLOW

Co-sponsors: GUNTHER, PRETLOW

Multi-sponsors:

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