

# **AAs ARE HIGHLY EDUCATED, WELL-QUALIFIED ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS (Comparison of AA and CRNA Qualifications)**

Anesthesiologist assistants (“AAs”) are highly trained anesthetists who provide patient care exclusively under the direction of anesthesiologists. This is called the Anesthesia Care Team, and has been a very common, and safe, approach to providing anesthesia care for many years.

## **Prerequisites**

- Four year pre-med degree (3.0 GPA or higher)
  - Note – *Twenty-seven percent (27%) of North Carolina nurse anesthetists (“NAs”) do not have a four-year degree.*
- Top Percentile GRE or MCAT required.

## **Educational Programs**

- Master’s degree programs at Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia); Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, Ohio); South University (Savannah, Georgia); and Nova Southeastern University (Ft. Lauderdale, Florida).
- Affiliated with medical schools and trained by anesthesiologists with medical school appointments; accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

## **Educational Program Requirements**

- Twenty-seven (27) month Masters of Science degree program
  - Note -*Nurse anesthetist programs did not require a Masters degree until 1998. In 2002, over 56% of all nurse anesthetists practicing in NC did not have a Masters degree.*
- 2500 clinical hours of patient care experience
- Certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

## **Recertification**

- Similar to physicians, AAs must pass a recertification exam every six years to ensure they stay current with medical advances in anesthesia care.
  - Note -*Nurse anesthetists (NAs) are not required to take any type of recertification exam after they receive their initial training.*

## **A Proven Track Record**

- . • AAs have a thirty-year clinical track record of providing safe anesthesia care.
- . • AAs are licensed to provide anesthesia care in many Southeastern states, including South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- . • A study by the University Hospital Health System in Ohio found no difference in patient outcomes when comparing anesthesia care provided by NAs and AAs.
- . • Medical malpractice insurance companies rate AAs and NAs as equivalent providers and equal risks for actuarial purposes.

## **Support HB 1330: Authorize/Licensure Anesthesiologist Assistants**

Contact:

North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists  
P.O. Box 1676, Raleigh, NC 27602

Mr. Marion A. Suitt  
919-272-7667

Mr. Dana E. Simpson  
919-821-6756

Mr. Johnny Tillett  
919-696-4071