**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15‑21, 2015 AS “CRNA WEEK” IN SOUTH CAROLINA, TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS AND THEIR ROLE IN PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE.

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

Whereas, these registered nurses have completed a graduate‑level educational program in a nationally accredited program of nurse anesthesia and after graduation are qualified to take the national certifying examination; and

Whereas, legislation passed by Congress in 1986 made nurse anesthetists the first nursing specialty to be accorded direct reimbursement rights under the Medicare program; and

Whereas, in South Carolina, over 1,000 CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, and plastic surgeons; the United States Military, Public Health Services, and Veterans Affairs medical facilities; and

Whereas, each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physician’s offices, and the medical facilities of the United States Military, Veteran’s Administration, and Public Health Service are the hands‑on providers of more than thirty‑four million anesthetics given to patients in the United States; and

Whereas, the period of February 15‑21, 2015 has been designated as South Carolina “CRNA Week”. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize the week of February 15‑21, 2015 as “CRNA Week” in South Carolina and recognize the importance of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and their role in providing quality healthcare for the citizens of this State.

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