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February 1, 2022

The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians supports passage of Delegate Bonnie Cullison HB055: Health Occupations-Nurse Anesthetists-Drug Authority and Collaboration.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) are highly educated Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) who have either a master's or doctoral degree in nursing. CRNAs have special training in pharmacology and anesthetic agents—both in the classroom and in supervised clinical settings throughout their educational programs--making CRNAs highly capable of prescribing medications for their patients in the perioperative period.

CRNAs provide every type of anesthesia for patients of all ages, for any kind of procedure, and in every healthcare setting. With over 900 CRNAs in Maryland, CRNAs administer most of the anesthesia in the state.

Having the ability to prescribe medications before and after a patient's surgery will allow for CRNAs to provide safe, seamless care without unnecessary delays while waiting for a physician to order critical medications. And, as we know, delays in obtaining critical medications can also impact outcomes for the patient.

Twenty-seven states have passed legislation to give CRNAs the authority to prescribe medications to patients for whom they provide anesthesia. It's time Maryland catches up.

We urge a favorable report on this bill. If you need further information, please contact me at [LDianaart@aol.com](mailto:LDianaart@aol.com).

Sincerely,  
Lorraine Diana, CRNP  
MAAPC Legislative Co-Chair