



# CANANA

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

## PROTECT ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE

- A physician anesthesiologist–surveyor contracted with the California Department of Public Health is **targeting Central Valley hospitals and spreading misinformation to discredit Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)**.
- **Nearly 1,000 procedures have been unnecessarily cancelled, delayed, or transferred**, severely impacting the health and welfare of Central Valley residents. **80% of these cases are Medi-Cal or Medicare enrollees.**
- CDPH surveys help ensure effective, safe, and quality care within California health care facilities; however, **without proper oversight, these surveys can be leveraged to negatively impact patient access to care.**
- Other CDPH surveyors operating statewide have **never raised an issue with CRNA scope of practice.**
- CRNAs are **extensively trained, educated, and qualified** anesthesia experts.
- **CRNAs are safe and provide the same outcomes as anesthesiologists.** (Negrusa et al, Medical Care Journal, 2016; Dulisse, 2010–Health Affairs; Lewis, 2014–Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews)
- **CDPH must conduct an investigation** into the actions of the physician anesthesiologist–surveyor and the **alleged collusion with the California Society of Anesthesiologists.**

**94%** CRNAs provide anesthesia care independently in the 51 counties (94%) where surgical, obstetric, and trauma services are provided.

**4** CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in four rural counties (Colusa, Lassen, Modoc, and Trinity) and provide 80%+ of rural anesthesia nationwide.

**25** In 2009, California became the 15th state to “opt-out” of physician supervision, enabling CRNAs to bill Medi-Cal as independent providers. Now, there are 25 “opt-out” states.

**10** CRNAs undergo almost a decade of education & training to become specialists in anesthesiology, including at least 2 years of critical care nursing.

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**Without immediate action, California patients will lose access to care.**