

½-Page Practice Recommendation

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist (CRNA) practice is dependent upon legislation and regulations that support the full scope of our training, yet often legislators and their staff are completely unaware of who we are, and how we contribute to the healthcare system. CRNAs must identify, visit, and meet state legislators and office staff, and present accurate information about who CRNAs are, how we are trained, and what our capabilities and contributions are to the health care system so legislators can help support and facilitate our practice. We need to explain the value we bring as cost-effective, high-quality providers of anesthesia care, and how our practice saves unnecessary costs to health care systems. By reducing costs, and working in underserved areas, we increase access to care for underserved populations. It is essential for CRNAs to develop professional relationships with their legislators and office staffs that recognize our contributions, as these relationships promote recognition and support for us when we ask for legislative or regulatory assistance. These relationships can be cultivated by visiting district offices, and also by volunteering in the activities necessary to create local or community events sponsored by the legislative office. At such events, we can showcase our skills as team members and healthcare leaders, our concern for our communities and entire populations of patients, and, as appropriate, sharing our medical knowledge and abilities. Grateful office staff and legislators will demonstrate their gratitude with open doors, increased access to the legislator, and increased understanding of, and attention to our issues.