

By: Howard of Travis

H.R. No. 83

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nurse anesthetists were the first professional
2 health care workers to provide anesthesia in the United States, and
3 they compose the oldest recognized group of advanced-practice
4 registered nurse specialists in this country; and

5 WHEREAS, These registered nurses have completed a rigorous,
6 graduate-level course of academic and clinical study in a
7 nationally accredited program of nurse anesthesia; following
8 graduation, they are qualified to take the national certifying
9 examination; and

10 WHEREAS, All graduates of nurse anesthesia educational
11 programs receive a master's degree, and those who successfully pass
12 the certifying exam may use the title certified registered nurse
13 anesthetist (CRNA); and

14 WHEREAS, According to the American Association of Nurse
15 Anesthetists, more than 65 percent of all rural hospitals rely on
16 CRNAs to provide anesthesia care; without these advanced-practice
17 nurses, some 1,500 facilities would be unable to maintain trauma
18 stabilization, surgical, and obstetrical capabilities, a
19 circumstance that would force many rural Americans to travel long
20 distances to obtain such services; and

21 WHEREAS, Each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory
22 surgical centers, physicians' offices, and medical facilities of
23 the U.S. military, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Public
24 Health Service are the hands-on providers of approximately 65

1 percent of all anesthetics given to patients in the United States,
2 and in rural communities the percentage is even higher; and

3 WHEREAS, The delivery of health care in this country is
4 dependent, in large measure, on the work of certified registered
5 nurse anesthetists, and it is indeed fitting that they be honored
6 for the crucial role that they fulfill; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize January 21-27, 2007, as Nurse
9 Anesthetists Week in Texas and extend deep appreciation to all
10 certified registered nurse anesthetists for the great skill and
11 dedication they bring to their challenging vocation.