

By: Whitmire

S.R. No. 111

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, leaders in the medical specialty
2 of anesthesiology recognized the existence of staffing shortages,
3 and to meet growing demands and accommodate the increasing
4 complexity of anesthesia and surgery, a group of anesthesiologists
5 proposed the precursor to what is now the health care occupation of
6 certified anesthesiologist assistant; and

7 WHEREAS, Certified anesthesiologist assistants are highly
8 skilled health professionals who work under the direction of
9 licensed physician anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care
10 plans and work exclusively within the Anesthesia Care Team model,
11 as described by the American Society of Anesthesiologists; and

12 WHEREAS, All CAA students must have earned a baccalaureate
13 degree with premedical coursework to be admitted into a CAA
14 training program and must complete a comprehensive didactic and
15 clinical program at the graduate level; and

16 WHEREAS, CAA training programs must also include a minimum of
17 24 months in a master's level program accredited by the Commission
18 on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and must be
19 based at, or work in collaboration with, a university that has a
20 medical school and academic anesthesiologist physician faculty; as
21 part of their CAA training, students are typically required to
22 successfully complete an average of 600 hours of classroom and
23 laboratory education and 2,600 hours of clinical anesthesia
24 education; they are also required to administer a total of more than

600 anesthetics and to gain experience in all types of surgery; and

WHEREAS, Certified anesthesiologist assistants are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care as well as advanced patient monitoring techniques; they perform tasks such as administering drugs, obtaining vascular access, applying and interpreting monitors, establishing and maintaining patient airways, and assisting with preoperative assessment; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Dr. Carin Hagberg, in her role as the chief of anesthesiology for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, developed a partnership with Case Western Reserve University to start a CAA program in Houston; it received initial accreditation in 2010 from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and the Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant; that same year, 16 graduate students were enrolled in the program, and they completed their studies in 2012; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, under the guidance of program director Kenneth Maloney, CAA, the Case Western Reserve University Anesthesiologist Assistant Program expanded to provide clinical rotations in Central Texas at Baylor Scott and White Health in North Austin; and

WHEREAS, Certified anesthesiologist assistants currently provide anesthesia within an anesthesia care team at many major hospitals in Texas, including the Heart Hospital of Austin, Baylor Scott and White Health, Children's Medical Center Dallas, Methodist Hospital, Memorial Hermann Orthopedic and Spine Hospital, Memorial

1 Hermann Southwest, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands, Memorial
2 Hermann Sugar Land, St. David's Hospital System in Austin, and
3 Texas Heart Institute at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Certified anesthesiologist assistants practice in
5 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territory of Guam;
6 they also practice within the Medicare system and provide
7 anesthesia services for a multitude of medical procedures every
8 year in the United States; they have practiced in Texas since 1997,
9 when Dr. John Zerwas of Greater Houston Anesthesiology brought them
10 into the practice to address the shortage in anesthesia providers;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Texas Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants is
13 dedicated to the ethical advancement of the CAA profession and to
14 creating a better future through innovation, cutting-edge
15 medicine, advocacy, and education; the academy is ably led by
16 president Tasha Krueger, CAA, Tim Goodridge, CAA, and secretary
17 Thao Nguyen, CAA, as well as board members Frank Trzaska, CAA, Jana
18 McAllister, CAA, and Paul McHorse, CAA; and

19 WHEREAS, Certified anesthesiologist assistants have
20 dedicated their careers to serving the citizens of Texas, and they
21 are indeed deserving of special commendation; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
23 hereby recognize the week of February 20 through February 24, 2023,
24 as Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant Week in Texas and encourage
25 residents of the Lone Star State to pay tribute to these invaluable
26 professionals.