

Hello Everyone:

I hope all is well and you are winning each challenge of the day. As we continue to strive to protect and promote our practice of our profession while delivering safe and effective anesthesia care, let me tell you about the 2015 AANA MidYear Assembly in our nation's capitol. There were fourteen representatives from MANA who participated in the Assembly and who participated in the visits with our senators and congressmen on the Hill. We met personally with all of our elected officials except for Congressman Palazzo. Our Hill day began early with coffee with Senator Wicker and his staff and progressed through the day with meetings with Senator Cochran, Senator Wicker's staff, Congressman Harper, Congressman Thompson, and Congressman Palazzo's health aide. Our topics: CRNA's Provide Access to Safe and Affordable Healthcare, Ensure Veterans Access to High Quality Care, Restore Rural Access to Nurse Anesthesia Services, and Support Nurse Anesthesia Workforce Development.

Action items on which we asked our congressional delegation to act:

1. Action for Congress: Contact the VHA to support improving Veterans access to quality healthcare via updating a Nursing Handbook that recognizes CRNA's and other APRN's to their full practice authority. Please support HR 1247, the "Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act" introduced by Representative Sam Graves (R-MO-6) and Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9) which recognizes all VHA APRN's as FPP and refrain from supporting S 297 as currently written.
2. Action for Congress: Oppose problematic anesthesiologist-only legislation that risks healthcare cost growth without expanding access to care. Support legislation restoring on-call and standby pay to the Medicare rural hospital pass-through program for CRNA services.
3. Action for Congress: Contact the Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-HHS-Education and express support for \$244 million for APRN and CRNA workforce development appropriations under Title 8, including at least \$66 million for Advanced Nursing Education and for Nurse Anesthesia Education. Reauthorize the Title 8 program.

Congressman Bennie Thompson signed on to co-sponsor HR 1247. We asked all our other congressmen to co-sponsor HR 1247. That has not occurred at the time of this article. We asked Senator Cochran and Senator Wicker to refrain from supporting S 297 as currently written and as of the writing of this article they have refrained from supporting that piece of legislation in the Senate. Relative to the educational meetings we were able to network with our colleagues from across the country and to gain better insight into what is happening and how that which is happening is being managed by our individual state associations. As FPD, I was involved in the preparation and developing strategic planning for promoting our interests and interests of our patients. As a member of the CRNA-PAC I represented you and all the AANA members in reviewing goals and strategies for the political season. I also helped accomplish the CRNA-PAC event at MYA which raised significant dollars from MYA attendees to go directly to funding the CRNA-PAC efforts to educate Congress about CRNA issues and to promote the well-being of our profession. Relative to Mississippi politics at the federal level, CRNA-PAC recently contributed

to the candidacy of Trent Kelly in MS-01 who is competing to fill the seat of Congressman Alan Nunnelee our friend who passed away earlier this year.

To all you high quality, safe, cost-effective, cost efficient gas passers out there,

Blessings,

Dwayne  
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MANA, FPD