

# NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

August 23, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Department of Health and Human Services' statement on the explanation of effectiveness of the temporary Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) license, below, reflects its sole views. The question has also been sent to the Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) and its response will be forwarded should they choose to opine.

APRN-CRNAs provide anesthesia service across the entire state, particularly in critical care access hospitals, but also in larger institutions. A temporary APRN-CRNA license is only issued when an applicant has not submitted all application requirements to practice, such as fingerprints, or results from a credentialing examination, but has a job ready and waiting for the applicant to practice. The temporary permit is time limited to allow the applicant to practice while they complete the permanent application to obtain their license. If this occupation is no longer regulated, the state would lose a large group of specialized providers of anesthesia and pain management services which would limit the public's ability to access this type of care. If this license type is no longer available, the state would lose a group of qualified specialized providers who would be unable to provide anesthesia and pain management services while waiting for their permanent credential, limiting the public's ability to access this type of care.

There is one set of regulations that governs all four APRN groups. Each specific APRN group has a set of statutes unique to the group. The care provided by this occupation is available across the state and is based on standards of education and practice. The ability of the public to access this care and the low number of disciplines are indications of the effectiveness of its regulation.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy A. Tesmer, MD  
Chief Medical Officer