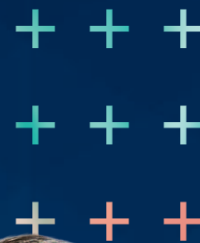


# SUPPORT H.R. 2234

## Ensuring Veterans Timely Access to Anesthesia Care Act



### THE PROBLEM

The VHA has a shortage of anesthesia providers and unnecessary supervision delays care, increase costs, and drive inefficiencies.

### THE SOLUTION



**H.R. 2234 The Ensuring Veterans Timely Access to Anesthesia Care Act would improve veteran access to care.**

At a time when the VA is facing a shortage of anesthesia providers, this bill would remove barriers and eliminate inefficiencies within VA by ensuring that all qualified anesthesia providers can provide direct patient care, including Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). This would reduce wait times, increase access to care, and save taxpayers and veterans money.



### Ongoing Physician Anesthesiologist Shortages Make Inefficient Anesthesia Models Untenable

Reports from the VA Office of Inspector General have continued to show that dozens of VA facilities have an acute shortage of anesthesia providers. Facilities in Denver, CO and Hampton, VA have demonstrated how inefficient anesthesia models delays veterans access to care. Our veterans deserve better, and this bill would alleviate these delays while cutting costs.

### Protect Veterans and Taxpayer Money

Instead of paying providers to unnecessarily supervise anesthesia, this bill would allow all anesthesia professionals to provide direct patient care, increasing VA's ability to provide care within the VHA system, and directly saving veterans and taxpayers money that can be used to provide veterans with other services, including suicide prevention.

### Align VA Practice with Defense Health Agency, Indian Health Service, Majority of States

Current Defense Health Agency policy allows CRNAs to be independent providers of anesthesia, which aligns them with the Indian Health Agency as well as the vast majority of states. Currently, only seven states have a supervision requirement in state law for CRNA services, and only one state requires that supervision to be provided by a physician anesthesiologist. The bill would align VA with other federal health systems and the vast majority of state laws.

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