



Opposition to S.1347 An Act relative to anesthesiologist assistants.

What is an Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA)?

An AA is an anesthesia provider who is required to provide services under the supervision of a physician anesthesiologist. AAs have a bachelor's degree with specific prerequisite science courses and complete a master's degree. Their educational programs require no previous nursing or medical experience.

Opposition:

1. CRNAs are not interchangeable with AAs! AAs require physician anesthesiologist supervision; CRNAs do not.
2. Why alienate 60,000 potential autonomous CRNA recruits for approximately 3000 AAs who cannot work autonomously?
3. AAs are not economically viable because their paying their salaries will always also require paying the salaries of supervising physician anesthesiologists.
4. According to CMS data, physician anesthesiologists personally administer anesthesia only 34% of the time in Massachusetts.
5. Massachusetts physician anesthesiologists should administer anesthesia personally instead of “supervising” CRNAs in unnecessary and expensive practice models.