

No Surprises Act Provider Nondiscrimination

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) represents more than 57,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and student registered nurse anesthetists. Our members work in every healthcare setting and provide advanced care to millions of patients, especially to those in rural and underserved areas. With so many CRNAs working in rural and underserved areas, our members often work for multiple healthcare facilities in order to ensure that these facilities have access to anesthesia care that enables them to provide other services, including surgical, obstetrical, trauma stabilization, interventional diagnostic, and pain management services.

- **The *No Surprises Act* passed at the end of the 116th Congress calls on the Departments of HHS, Labor, and Treasury to promulgate rules on provider nondiscrimination.** The legislation gives the departments one year to create a rule that would require insurers to treat providers equitably when they are practicing within their scope and performing medically necessary procedures.
- **Non-physician providers, including CRNAs, have faced difficulties with insurers who refused to negotiate or include non-physician providers in network, or who reimburse at an unequal rate based on licensure.** This increases costs for consumers and contributes to surprise medical bills, while also minimizing access to critical care.
- **It is critical to ensure that healthcare providers, including CRNAs and other nurses, are treated fairly by insurers.** A strong and enforceable provider nondiscrimination rule is critical to ensuring that everyone has access to life saving care from the provider of their choice. Any rule must prevent health insurers, health plans and payors from establishing varying reimbursement rates for all types of providers practicing within their state licensure and state scope of practice laws.

Action for Congress: Ask the U.S. Departments of HHS, Labor and Treasury to promulgate a strong and enforceable provider nondiscrimination rule that will protect consumer access and provider for fair reimbursement for all providers.