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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Nurse anesthetists have a long standing history as  
3 pioneers in the field of anesthesia, providing anesthesia since  
4 1877; and

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WHEREAS, Nurse anesthetists were the first professional  
6 group to provide anesthesia in the United States and are the  
7 oldest recognized group of advanced practice registered  
8 nursing specialists; and

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WHEREAS, These specially trained registered nurses have  
10 completed a graduate-level educational program in a nationally  
11 accredited program of nurse anesthesia and after graduation are  
12 qualified to take the national certifying examination; and

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WHEREAS, Graduates who successfully pass the examination  
14 can use the title Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist  
15 (CRNA), and in addition, all graduates of nurse anesthesia  
16 programs in Illinois now receive a master's degree upon  
17 completion of the rigorous academic and clinical curriculum;  
18 and

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WHEREAS, According to the American Association of Nurse  
20 Anesthetists, more than 65 percent of all rural hospitals rely  
21 on CRNAs to provide anesthesia care, and without these advanced  
22 practice nurses, some 1,500 facilities would be unable to  
23 maintain trauma stabilization, surgical, and obstetrical  
24 capabilities, forcing many rural Americans to travel long  
25 distances for such services; and

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WHEREAS, Each year CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory  
27 surgical centers, physician's offices, and the medical  
28 facilities of the United States military, veteran's  
29 administration, and public health service, administer 65  
30 percent of the 26 million anesthetics given to patients in the

1 United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Over 1,200 CRNAs provide the highest quality  
3 patient anesthesia care in Illinois; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the period of January  
6 22 - 28, 2006, be recognized as Nurse Anesthetists Week in  
7 Illinois to honor the importance of Certified Registered Nurse  
8 Anesthetists and their role in providing accessible quality  
9 health care in Illinois; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists as  
12 an expression of our esteem.