**Highlights of the Anesthesia Care Section of The SAVE Act**

***Primary Sponsors:*** *Rep. Josh Dobson, Rep. Donny Lambeth, Rep. Sarah Stevens,*

*Rep. Gale Adcock, Sen. Ralph Hise, Sen. Jim Davis*

**Q: Why does the legislature need to act on the anesthesia care provision?**

**A:** When an important public policy issue is vague in the law, the legislature, the body elected by the people, is the appropriate place to go for direction and clarification. North Carolina’s statutes do not contain a definition of anesthesia practice. Today, those definitions exist in the state’s administrative code and have been the subject of years of debate among lawyers. It is appropriate for the legislature to clearly define this important area of health care practice.

**Q: What does the anesthesia care section of the bill do?**

**A:** The anesthesia care section of the bill codifies in statute the definition of nurse anesthesia activities that have been in the North Carolina Administrative Code for decades. Also, the section states that these activities are not the practice of medicine. These activities are done in collaboration with fellow health care providers, each contributing his or her respective area of expertise in the best interest of the patient.

**Q: What does the anesthesia care section of the bill NOT do?**

**A:** The bill does not increase the scope of practice of CRNAs. The SAVE Act…

 • Maintains the current list of nurse anesthesia activities.

 • Does not give CRNAs prescriptive authority.

**Q: Why should I support the anesthesia care section of The SAVE Act?**

**A:** Your support of the anesthesia care provisions of The SAVE Act will responsibly maintain safe, quality, affordable, accessible anesthesia care for all North Carolinians. Your support means…

 • **Quality anesthesia care** for patients as proven by decades of studies

 • **Reasonable costs** for health care payers – patients, employers, and taxpayers

 • **Continued access** to surgical care across North Carolina – especially in rural and underserved communities.