

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2234

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update certain standards regarding anesthesia and pain management services in the Veterans Health Administration.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update certain standards regarding anesthesia and pain management services in the Veterans Health Administration.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Veterans  
5 Timely Access to Anesthesia Care Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALIGNMENT OF STANDARDS REGARDING CER-**  
2 **TIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS**  
3 **IN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**  
4 **WITH STANDARDS OF THE DEFENSE HEALTH**  
5 **AGENCY.**

6 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall update VHA  
7 Directive 1123 titled “National Anesthesia Program, De-  
8 partment of Veterans Affairs Certified Registered Nurse  
9 Anesthetists Practice Guidelines” (or any successor direc-  
10 tive) to recognize, in the Veterans Health Administration,  
11 certified registered nurses anesthetists as licensed inde-  
12 pendent practitioners in a manner consistent with the  
13 practice standards described by section 3(f)(2) of Enclo-  
14 sure of Defense Health Agency Administrative Instruction  
15 6025.07, dated November 8, 2023, as amended.

16 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS OF ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS IN**  
17 **THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

18 (a) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
19 fairs shall require an anesthesia professional employed by  
20 the Secretary as—

21 (1) a physician anesthesiologist to be certified  
22 by the American Board of Anesthesiology or a simi-  
23 lar body determined by the Secretary; and

24 (2) a certified registered nurse anesthetist to be  
25 certified by the Council on Certification of Nurse  
26 Anesthetists or the Council on Recertification of

1 Nurse Anesthetists or a similar body determined by  
2 the Secretary.

3 (b) DIRECT CARE.—The Secretary shall require an  
4 anesthesia professional described in subsection (a) to have  
5 completed at least 25 hours of direct patient anesthesia  
6 care (not including supervision of other anesthesia profes-  
7 sionals).

8 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall suspend  
9 from employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs  
10 an anesthesia professional described in subsection (a) who  
11 has not complied with the requirements of this section.

12 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON ANESTHESIA DELIVERY IN THE**  
13 **VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

14 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
15 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller  
16 General of the United States shall submit to the Commit-  
17 tees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
18 and the Senate a report that contains the following, and  
19 which shall be made publicly available:

20 (1) Data regarding outcomes regarding the fol-  
21 lowing anesthesia models used in the Veterans  
22 Health Administration:

23 (A) Delivery by an anesthesiologist.

24 (B) Delivery by a certified registered nurse  
25 anesthetist under the supervision of a physician.

1                   (C) Delivery by a certified registered nurse  
2                   anesthetist without supervision.

3                   (2) A comparison of the cost effectiveness of  
4                   the models described in paragraph (1), including—

5                   (A) the estimated cost to medical facilities  
6                   of the Department of Veterans Affairs and tax-  
7                   payers for each such model; and

8                   (B) a breakdown of costs and savings to  
9                   taxpayers and to veterans' households associ-  
10                  ated with each such model.

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