

## **CANA Statement on CSA/CMA Lawsuit**

Boyes Hot Springs, CA (February 9, 2010) The Board of Directors of the California Association of Nurse Anesthetists has issued the following statement in response to a recent lawsuit filed by the California Society of Anesthesiologists and the California Medical Association who challenge the Governor's decision to opt out of the Medicare and Medi-Cal Condition of Participation for supervision of CRNAs:

"In the fifteen states that have opted out since 2001 when the federal supervision exemption rule was first adopted, there has not been a single reported quality of care incident related to any of the states' opt-out decisions. California's decision to opt out, like that of the fourteen states that opted out before it, is fully consistent with state law and the opt-out eligibility requirements."

"The decision to opt out was made by Governor Schwarzenegger because he understands it will facilitate access to quality health care throughout California. The opt-out is about patient care and access to that care, and it ensures that safe, high quality anesthesia services are available to all Californians. The Governor's decision to exercise this option is particularly good news for those who struggle to obtain care in rural locations and economically disadvantaged areas."

"While no hospital is required to change its own internal policies concerning supervision, the opt-out will give health care facilities the flexibility they need. Hospitals must be free to provide anesthesia services in the way that will best meet the needs of their patients and their communities. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are highly educated professionals who administer safe, effective anesthesia care, as documented by recent studies comparing anesthesia providers with quality of care."

CANA Board of Directors  
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