VA Full Practice Authority:

A couple of years ago, it was proposed that all APRNs (CRNAs, NPs, CNMs and CNS) in VA system should be granted Full Practice Authority (FPA) instead of being held back by arbitrary regulations that prevents the veteran patient access to quality care. The VA nursing handbook was rewritten to include this very language and was sent around for review. Flash forward to present day. The VA ONS (Office of Nursing Service) the AVANA and the ASA met recently with the VA Under Secretary, Dr. Shulkin one last time to get the view points for these organizations. Apparently, the lone group in opposition to the language is the ASA, and they only oppose the CRNA language and not the rest of the APRN FPA language. The final draft markup by the ONS is expected to be published soon and then the public will have a 60 day period to respond to the proposed language. This is similar to when the removal of supervision requirements of the Medicare language was put forth during the Clinton Administration in CY 2000.

Once the final language is published, we need to get every CRNA and anyone they know to write letters of support. Employees of the VA cannot send in comments. This is important as anything helpful to the VA CRNAs will be passed on to the rest of the CRNAs in the country. VA CRNAs and anesthesiologists work well together and that will not change. However, over bearing useless language that restricts the CRNAs to practice to their full scope and knowledge will be removed.