

AB 876 (Flora, 2025)

Signed by Governor Newsom on October 1, 2025

THE FACTS

AB 876 (Flora, 2025) re-affirmed CRNAs' long-standing legal authority to deliver anesthesia care independently.

By strengthening the Nurse Anesthetist Act, AB 876 increases access to essential anesthesia services, particularly in rural and underserved regions, where CRNAs are the main anesthesia providers, delivering more than 80% of rural anesthesia nationwide.

AB 876 Quick Look

- »»» Did not create new policies / change how anesthesia services are ordered or delivered.
- »»» Aligned state statute with long-standing practice regarding CRNAs' legal independence to provide all types of anesthesia care in California.



Increases Access to Anesthesia Care

Protects timely and affordable access to anesthesia services for all age groups across hospitals, surgery centers, and rural facilities where CRNAs are credentialed.

Each health care facility can still choose how they provide anesthesia services: a CRNA-only model; a collaborative model where CRNAs and physician anesthesiologists work together, but independently; or a physician anesthesiologist-led model.



Improves Legal Clarity

In line with California's 2009 federal opt-out decision, AB 876 makes it abundantly clear that when a physician or surgeon orders anesthesia, CRNAs have the independent authority to select and adjust anesthesia techniques as appropriate.



Enhances Patient Safety

Prevents dangerous, costly, and unnecessary disruptions in care due to regulatory misinterpretations that negatively impact patients through cancelled or delayed surgeries.