



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2018

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TxANA COMMENTS ON CHRISTUS SPOHN HOSPITAL'S SHIFT TO A SAFE, PATIENT-FOCUSED, COST-EFFECTIVE ANESTHESIA CARE MODEL

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS—*The following statement is in response to the decision by CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital of Corpus Christi to change anesthesia providers and should be attributed to Tim Jones, DNP, CRNA, who serves as President of the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists:*

“Recent news coverage of CHRISTUS Spohn Health System’s contract award to Emergenc Health for anesthesia services has raised unfounded concerns and questions about patient safety and physician liability.

“Additionally, the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists (TSA) issued a news release and made incorrect statements regarding the practice of nurse anesthesia in a hospital setting.

“The public, patients and health care providers at CHRISTUS Spohn Health System deserve an accurate survey of Texas law and practice. As the state association representing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and the largest such association in the United States, the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TxANA) is fully committed to serving as a fact-based resource for statutory and regulatory concerns, as well as best practices of CRNAs across our state.

“CRNAs are anesthesia professionals educated at the masters or doctorate level who provide the full range of anesthesia and pain management services with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect.

“The care model employed by Emergenc Health in Corpus Christi is a tested and effective system to ensure high-quality anesthesia care for patients. Many medical centers, rural hospitals and the military employ a similar model of anesthesia care, and CHRISTUS has used this MD/CRNA model for years to manage their trauma program.

“CRNAs are the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural communities, enabling health care facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, pain management and trauma stabilization services. Additionally, health care plans recognize CRNAs for providing high-quality anesthesia care with reduced expense to patients and insurance companies. The cost-efficiency of CRNAs helps control escalating health care costs.

Additional information regarding the CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital and its anesthesia care is available in TxANA's letter to hospital leadership.

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