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AAAA Supports AAAEP and Health Education Leaders on Student Loan Proposal Affecting Advanced Anesthesia Education

Association emphasizes the importance of equitable, predictable financing pathways for graduate-level clinical training.

The American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants (AAAA) supports the position of the Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Education Programs (AAAEP) and other health education leaders regarding the Department of Education's proposed student loan regulations under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA). As proposed, the regulations could significantly limit graduate loan access for students preparing for advanced clinical roles in anesthesia and other health professions.

AAAA shares the broader health education community's concern that narrowing established financing pathways and applying inconsistent standards across graduate health programs does not fully reflect the integrated nature of today's health workforce. Clear, consistent definitions for graduate-level health education—grounded in accreditation, scientific rigor, and workforce demand—are essential to maintaining strong educational pipelines across the care continuum. Restricting access to graduate loans in fields already experiencing workforce shortages may have downstream effects on patient access, care-team stability, and the ability to train highly qualified anesthesia professionals. AAAA remains committed to advancing policies that promote equitable, predictable financial pathways into the profession and support the long-term strength of the anesthesia care team.

"Students pursuing accredited anesthesiologist assistant education programs complete a rigorous, science-based curriculum that prepares them for safe, high-quality anesthesia practice," said Emily Mycyk, President of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants. "We support AAAEP's call for a student loan framework that reflects the realities of health professions training and ensures future clinicians can access the education needed to meet patient care needs."

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