

# STATE LINES

Spring 2025

## COMPONENT SOCIETY NEWS

### New Jersey State Society of Anesthesiologists

April 11, 2025

#### State Affairs Updates

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#### NJSSA Hosts 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The NJSSA hosted its 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in New Brunswick. This year's event was one of our most well attended meetings and featured presentations on political advocacy, regional anesthesia protocols, perioperative resuscitation and life support, artificial intelligence and legislative and regulatory issues. Additionally, the event provided interactive workshops on airway and ultrasounds protocols for attendees.



Thank you to our sponsors Vertex, Bell Medical, Cumberland Pharmaceuticals, GE Healthcare, Merck, New Jersey Anesthesia Professionals, Octapharma, Pajunk, and Verathon. We sincerely thank all those who attended and made this event a success. Mark your calendars for the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting being held on March 21, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

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#### NJSSA Congratulates Resident Poster Contest Award Winners

NJSSA was pleased to have 25 residents present their research as part of the resident poster contest at our Annual Meeting.

## Federal Legislative Update

- [American Society of Anesthesiologists Strongly Opposes Legislation to Replace Anesthesiologists with Nurses for Veterans' Care](#)
- [ASA Applauds Reintroduction of REDI Act](#)
- [ASA President Expresses Disappointment with Absence of 'Doc Fix' in Funding Package](#)
- [Senate Confirms Doug Collins as VA Secretary](#)
- [Krishnamoorthi and Connolly Call for Hearings on Health Insurance Companies Putting Profits Before Patients](#)
- [New No Surprises Act Independent Dispute Resolution Fees Started on January 1, 2025](#)
- [Opioid Epidemic Public Health Emergency Extended](#)

## Federal Regulatory Update

- [American Society of Anesthesiologists' Statement Regarding Anthem's Policy Reversal on Anesthesia Care Payment](#)
- [ASA Urges Reconsideration of NIH 15% Cap on Indirect Cost Payments](#)

## Public Relations Update

- [Ketamine for Mental Health Should Only be Provided by Trained Professionals](#)
- [Commercial Health Insurance Companies: Time to make a New Year's Resolution to Put Patients Before Profits](#)

Alyssa Marchiano, MD, Claudia Peterman, Raymond Malapero, MD, MPH, FASA, and Michael Entrup, MD, FASA from HMH Jersey Shore University Medical Center won the "Most Medically Challenging" award for their poster "Anesthetic Management in Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR) for a High-Risk Patient with Bioprosthetic Mitral Regurgitation and Severe Mitral Stenosis."

Sade Louis, MD, Jonathan Markley, DO, and Harold Burke, MD from SJUMC Paterson won the "Best Research" award for their poster "Quality Improvement: Interdepartmental Implementation of sub-specialty ERAS protocol."

We are so proud of the innovative research and dedication shown by the resident participants. The future of anesthesia in New Jersey certainly looks bright!

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## Support our Profession through the NJ Anesthesia PAC, ASAPAC and Asm. Azzariti's Campaign

With the New Jersey Governorship and the state Assembly on the ballot, it is more important than ever to make our voice heard. The NJ Anesthesia PAC plays a significant role in elevating our profile on the state level and pushing back on harmful legislation such as scope expansion and bad insurance policy. The ongoing commitment of our members has enabled support for state candidates who prioritize the profession and patient safety. You can contribute to the NJ Anesthesia PAC [here](#).

This support includes backing ASA members like Dr. John Azzariti (R-NJ) who represents the 39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in the General Assembly. Assemblyman Azzariti is a strong voice for our profession, serving on the Health and Aging and Human Services Committees. We encourage members to support his campaign as he is facing a primary challenge on June 10<sup>th</sup>. More information on Dr. Azzariti's campaign can be found [here](#).

ASAPAC is recognized in federal circles as America's top physician PAC and a leading healthcare PAC. ASAPAC also works with component societies to support their advocacy presence and initiatives in the states.

Beyond candidate support, ASAPAC facilitates ASA member participation in key meetings with governors, lieutenant governors, attorneys general, and other significant events. You can make a contribution to ASAPAC [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

- [LEGCON 2025 \(May 5-7, 2025\)](#)
- [ANESTHESIOLOGY 2025 \(October 10-14, 2025\)](#)
- [Find More Anesthesiology Meetings](#)

When considering support for NJ Anesthesia PAC, Assembly Azzariti's campaign and ASAPAC in 2025 remember, each year the state legislature introduces legislation affecting crucial patient safety issues, such as nonphysician scope of practice, title protection, codifying bad insurance policies, and certified anesthesiologist assistant licensure. It is imperative we maintain our seat at the table fighting these critical issues.

*Contributions to ASAPAC, NJ Anesthesia PAC and Azzariti for Assembly are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal or state income tax purposes. Participation is voluntary. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. You must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident to contribute.*

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## NJSSA Hires Public Strategies Impact as New Management Firm

Public Strategies Impact (PSI) is now providing all association management services for the NJSSA. PSI supports the NJSSA in all matters of business with the exception of government affairs which continues to be handled by AJ Sabath and Rebecca Hughes at AMG.

Alexis Bailey is the new Executive Director of the Society and Meagan Rosina serves as Meetings and Events Manager. Karen Reiser handles all financial matters. Matt Halpin who oversees PSI's Association Management practice also serves as a resource for NJSSA.

NJSSA's new mailing address is 414 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08611. More information about the PSI team can be found [here](#).

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## Critical policy decisions are coming: Your voice is needed on Capitol Hill

Join fellow anesthesiologists, policy experts, and media insiders May 5–7 at [LEGCON 2025](#). Together, we'll tackle the issues that directly impact your practice and your patients.

This year's mission is clear: safeguard physician-led care, rein in big insurance practices, and take our patient-first message to federal decision makers. No one knows what's required for high-quality perioperative care better than you. Bring that expertise to Capitol Hill this May to make a real difference. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or new to the Hill, you'll leave refreshed and ready to drive change. Register via your state component society by emailing Alexis Bailey at [abailey@nipsi.com](mailto:abailey@nipsi.com). NJSSA will cover registration fees for members who wish to attend.

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## 2025 Legislative Session Update

The 2025 Legislative Session is off to a rapid start, with all states in session and over 213,000 bills introduced so far. Nurse anesthetist advocates are pushing to remove physician oversight laws, with such bills pending in nearly twenty states. Five states have introduced APRN Compact legislation, allowing nurse anesthetist-only practice models regardless of state law. Eleven states are considering certified anesthesiologist assistant licensure legislation, and six states have title misappropriation bills.

In addition to legislative activities, New Jersey and Virginia are holding gubernatorial elections, with term limits preventing current incumbents from running. Elections for all lower house seats will also take place in these states. ASA member Dr. John Azzariti is seeking re-election in New Jersey. He will face primary challengers in the June Primary election. Dr. Azzariti serves on the Committee on Health and the Committee on Aging and Human Services. Learn more about his campaign [here](#).

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## Sign Up for ASA's Advocacy Text Alerts

Sign up for ASA Advocacy text alerts so you can find out about the latest advocacy actions, special events, and ASAPAC activities. To sign up, text the word "Alerts" to (855) 465-8659, and then confirm your opt-in to our text program, or [sign up on our form at this link](#).

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## **ASA Fighting Against Insurers' Policy Changes to Anesthesia Time**

ASA is enhancing its state-level economic advocacy efforts by collaborating with interested state components to prevent unfavorable insurer policies like the recently reversed Anthem proposal on anesthesia time. So far in 2025, nine states have introduced legislation to prevent insurers from setting arbitrary time limits on anesthesia services. Notably, ASA member lawmakers Drs. William Hauter and John Azzariti have introduced legislation in Illinois and New Jersey. Stay tuned for updates as these initiatives progress. [Ask your lawmakers to hold insurance companies accountable.](#)

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## **ASA Submits Request to Court Seeking Dismissal of AANA's Nondiscrimination Suit**

ASA recently submitted an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief supporting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to dismiss an American Association of Nurse Anesthetists complaint, which, as detailed in ASA's brief, makes blanket assertions regarding the scope of licenses, contending there are no differences between anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists.

The brief offers the perspective of anesthesiologists and corrects numerous erroneous assertions in AANA's complaint. [Read more about the brief here.](#)

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## **2024 State Affairs Year in Review**

In 2024, ASA had another successful and eventful year, supporting state component societies in defeating numerous attempts to remove physician involvement from anesthesia care, protecting against medical title misappropriation, and expanding the practice of certified anesthesiologist assistants. Legislation aimed at reducing or eliminating physician involvement for nurse anesthetists was defeated in 17 states, and APRN Compact legislation was stopped in 2 states. Tennessee enacted a law preventing nonphysicians from using

medical titles like "anesthesiologist." In Washington, the governor signed a bill authorizing certified anesthesiologist assistant licensure, marking a first for the Pacific Northwest.

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## **ASA Resident Advocacy Champion Program**

ASA invites all residents interested in advocacy to sign up for the Resident Advocacy Champion program! The program is a unique opportunity for residents to jumpstart their advocacy engagement and undertake efforts to safeguard the specialty and patient safety. Participation in the Resident Advocacy Champion program also fulfills one of the advocacy prerequisites required to be considered for the ASA Resident Distinction Award. To become a Resident Advocacy Champion, you must watch a brief online module, meet with an elected official, and submit an online application. [Learn more and sign up.](#)