May 8, 2003

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor, State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Vilsack,

I write to you today to provide you with an update on the Opt Out of CRNA supervision that you initiated eighteen months ago.

There has not been much discussion of the CRNA Opt Out since you signed the waiver a year and a half ago. There have been absolutely no reports of problems or changes in the quality of care provided by CRNAs anywhere in Iowa.

- CRNAs continue to provide outstanding, safe anesthesia services – just as they did prior to the Opt Out
- The Opt Out has provided clarity and consistency between Iowa and federal law.
- The Opt Out has provided an avenue to reflect actual practice in Iowa.
- The Opt Out has eliminated the confusion about “supervision” and liability issues for the physicians, and
- The Opt Out has eliminated the confusion between Medicare reimbursement rules and the “supervision” issue.

Bottom line - CRNAs remain a valuable and vital part of the healthcare team providing care for Iowa. Thank you, Governor.

Sincerely,

Mary Mincer Hansen
Director