

# Democracy North Carolina

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## MEMORANDUM

**To: Interested Parties**  
**From: Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina -- 919-489-1931**  
**Date: April 6, 2007**  
**Re: Background on Political Donations from  
PACs of Anesthesiologists and Nurse Anesthetists**

There's a fair amount of attention on the nurse anesthetists, state Rep. Thomas Wright, etc. and it's important to put another side of the equation into the picture -- the money from the anesthesiologists. I know the nurses certainly would like to see a tad more balance in news coverage, and I certainly agree that the substantial sums of money anesthesiologists have poured into state legislative races is directly relevant.

Indeed, the desire to offset the huge financial advantage of the anesthesiologists underlies my earlier statement to a reporter about the nurses, quoted in yesterday's letter to Speaker Hackney from Joe Sinsheimer: "This is a case where a group has been told, or has internalized a message, that they need to pay to play and pay a lot more if they expect to prevail."

Below is a chart that shows the dramatic rise in giving by PACs of the anesthesiologists and the nurse anesthetists. Of particular interest is the proliferation of PACs sponsored by local practices of anesthesiologists. This tactic allows the profession to circumvent the normal \$4,000-per-election limit imposed on a single PAC.

My research of contributions to legislative campaigns (i.e., excluding donations to parties, statewide candidates, etc.) shows that the profession jumped from 4 PACs giving \$204,250 in the 2002 election period to 15 PACs giving \$504,827 in 2006 legislative elections -- a leap of \$300,000 in four years. Meanwhile, the nurse anesthetists PAC soared from giving \$3,500 in the 2002 legislative elections to \$103,500 in 2006.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PACs OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS AND  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS TO NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES ONLY**

**Donations to state Legislative Winners and Losers in Two-Year Periods;  
excludes donations to political party or caucus committees, and  
excludes donations to local, judicial and executive branch candidates**

	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Anesthesiologists Of The Triad PAC	\$ 33,000	
Asheville Anesthesia Associates PAC	48,000	
Carolina Anesthesiology PAC	14,000	
Critical Health Systems Of NC PAC	32,200	27,250
East Carolina Anesthesiology PAC	3,000	
Eastern NC Anesthesiology PAC	4,000	
Gaston Anesthesia Associates PAC	15,500	
Greater Hickory Anesthesiologists PAC	45,500	
NC Anesthesiologists PAC	5,250	44,600
Northeast Anesthesia & Pain Specialists PAC	20,077	
Piedmont Triad Anesthesia PAC	54,000	
Presbyterian Anesthesia Associates PAC	35,000	
Sandhills Anesthesiologists PAC	9,500	
Southeast Anesthesia Associates PAC	116,800	81,500
Wilmington Anesthesiologists PAC	69,000	50,900
 Total for PACs of Anesthesiologists	 \$504,827	 \$204,250
 NC Association Of Nurse Anesthetists PAC	 \$103,050	 \$ 3,500
 Ratio of PAC Giving: Anesthesiologists v. Anesthetists	 4.9 to 1	 58 to 1