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Comments: Since I was first introduced to climbing in the early '90s as a child raised in violence and poverty in New York City, I have found refuge, community, Joy and soul strengthening challenge through rock climbing. One of the best developments in climbing in the last decade has been increased inclusivity and diversity. There's nothing better for climbing and for the world at large for the climbing scene to grow from mostly salty old white guys to something more akin to the wonderful range of humanity. Fixed hardware is an inherent part not only of climbing as it has been but climbing as it will be in the future. Our shared public lands are there for the recreation of our people. To recreate is to re-create: recreate community soul and connection. Fixed hardware is integral part of this process. In my years of participating in local climbing activism, repeatedly land managers have shared with me that climbers as a user group are very invested in caring for the land and educating its users. When I coached youth climbing teams, we would have service days, trail building days, an anchor inspection days. In my decades as an ER nurse and now flight nurse, I have unfortunately seen the consequences of many backcountry traumas, And abandoning principles of safe fixed hardware placement will not reduce the number of climbers but it will increase the number of accidents. I urge you to respect and trust tradition in this up-and-coming generation of climbers. There is nothing more heartening than going to the climbing gym and seeing these kids who have never been outside but who already love nature, love wilderness and have a very strong desire to protect it. The young people I see at the gym are more aware than any of us that our planet is in peril and strive to protect it. Allowing the continued responsible use of fixed anchors is essential to allow future generations to access rock climbing, And continue to mature the sport and the stewardship of its participants. Thank you for reading.
Jerimiah Gentry, RN