

Steven Sepe

From: Jerry Felix <jerryfelix@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 3:38 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Jerry Felix CRNA, Testimony on House Bill 5428-Pro

Distinguished Members of this Committee,

My name is Jerry Felix. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist with nine years of dedicated anesthesia experience, the current President of the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and one of the co-authors of House Bill 5428. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in strong support of this critical legislation.

Some may attempt to complicate or misrepresent the issue at hand, but the truth is simple: **House Bill 5428 is about patient safety.** This legislation is simple and straightforward and aligns with current scope of practice in Rhode Island and nationally.

It **does not** seek to limit access to care.

It **does not** seek to corner the anesthetic market.

It **does not** seek to create divisions among healthcare professionals.

It **does not** seek to boast or diminish ones hard earned credentials.

It **does not** diminish the expertise or valued roles of our RN and APRN colleagues.

Nor does it redefine levels of sedation.

Instead, it ensures that every Rhode Island patient receives the highest quality anesthesia care from the most qualified provider—one who is properly educated, trained, and licensed to administer that specialized care safely.

As the current Rhode Island statute, defined in Chapter 34 of Title 5: Businesses and Professions, stands today, its language is unclear and ambiguous. This lack of clarity leaves room for institutions to exploit loopholes—placing financial interests above patient well-being. Our goal with this legislation is simple: to **eliminate ambiguity, provide clarity, establish enforceable guardrails, and uphold the highest standards of patient safety.** House Bill 5428 ensures that decisions affecting patient care are made with transparency and accountability, leaving no room for misinterpretation when it comes to protecting the people of Rhode Island.

Every patient deserves to trust that their care is provided by the most qualified professional. This legislation reinforces that principle and upholds our shared responsibility to prevent policies that prioritize cost-cutting and profits over best medical and nursing practices.

Today, I urge you to support House Bill 5428. By doing so, you take a critical step toward safeguarding the health and well-being of your constituents and ensuring that **patient safety remains the top priority** in Rhode Island healthcare.

Thank you,

Jerry Felix
President of Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists
401-954-4254
jerryfelix@ymail.com