

Steven Sepe

From: Wingerter, Rebecca <rebecca_wingerter@brown.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:13 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 5428 entitled An act relating to the business and professions- nurses

House Committee Health and Human Services
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence RI 02903

February 21, 2025

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 5428 entitled An act relating to the business and professions- nurses

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the HHS Committee

My name is Rebecca Wingerter, and I'm currently employed as a physician in the State of Rhode Island. I work as a pediatric emergency medicine fellow in the Hasbro Emergency Department.

I strongly oppose House Bill 5428 entitled "An act relating to the business and professions- nurses". In our emergency department, we are dependent on nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide moderate conscious sedations for pediatric patients. These sedations are essential to keep children safe while they receive brief but essential procedures in our emergency department that do not necessitate operative repair in an operating room with full operating room staffing. These procedures include laceration repairs, minor dental procedures, fracture reduction, foreign body removals, and imaging studies such as CT imaging or MRI imaging. Our emergency department is constantly at critical capacity and we have constant staffing shortages. This impacts our ability to provide prompt, thorough care to the children of Rhode Island. This bill would further restrict patient/family access to critical health services that are delivered by nurses and nurse practitioners in countless clinical settings across the state. Rhode Island is experiencing a health care crisis and passage of this bill would result in significantly worsening the current situation.

Safe and prompt care is the goal of every emergency department, and our ability to do so would be negatively impacted by passing this bill and eliminating the ability of nurse practitioners and nurses to administer medications such as propofol and ketamine. The providers in our emergency department who manage these procedures are well trained and well experienced, and when new providers are seeking to be trained in this skill, it is a highly regulated and controlled training process.

I urge you to vote against bill 5428.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against bill 5428. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Wingerter, MD
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