

House Committee Health and Human Services  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence RI 02903  
February 25, 2025

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill H5428 entitled "Details each of those limited emergency circumstances where a registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurses, may safely administer sedation, such as critical life-saving or emergency situations where there is an imminent threat to life or limb."

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the HHS Committee,

My name is Taylor Warner, and I am from District 71 of Portsmouth, RI. I oppose House bill 5428 because I strongly believe that this bill will have an overarching negative impact on patient safety and the quality of care we provide.

I am currently employed as an Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in a neurocritical care ICU. I would like to highlight that in my role I am not providing care in any sort of GI/ Endoscopy suite area which is where the creation of this bill began. Nonetheless, H5428 will have a direct impact on my patients, as well as patients in other care areas throughout the hospital.

In my unit, we take care of patients admitted to us as a result of traumatic brain injury, hemorrhagic and ischemic strokes, patients with seizures/ status epilepticus, as well as those undergoing neurosurgical procedures to name a few. We are not providing deep or general sedation as our anesthesia colleagues would in an OR setting, however, we will administer minimal to moderate sedation to some of our patients as necessary.

It appears this bill arose out of a job position/posting that was created by an organization, and not an actual safety issue that occurred involving Nurse Practitioners. This job position clearly affected CRNAs opportunity for employment, but has now pivoted into becoming about the safety of NPs providing sedation. There was no safety event involving Nurse Practitioners that led to the creation of this bill.

I encourage you to consider the impact this bill will have on patient safety, as we are already in an extremely understaffed and stressed healthcare system. If this bill were to pass, would we have the necessary anesthesia providers available to provide these extra services they had not provided before? Will patients then be waiting longer for these services to be provided? If H5428 were created out of a patient safety issue, and was to benefit our patients, you would not see myself or fellow healthcare professionals in opposition to it. I truly do not believe the intention of this bill was to cause patient harm, but these are the real consequences of moving forward with this bill.

My concern first and foremost is for my patients safety, and I am honestly worried if this bill were to pass the extent to which they would be impacted. I urge you to vote against H5428.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against H5428. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Taylor Warner

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