

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7721 - Request for Amendment to Preserve CRNA Practice Ownership

Dear Chair Donovan,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists, I write to respectfully acknowledge the important purpose of H7721 while seeking a minor amendment. We understand and appreciate the bill's intent to preserve independent clinical judgment and to prevent inappropriate corporate interference in the delivery of care. Those are legitimate objectives. Our concern is that, as drafted, the bill appears to create an unintended consequence for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists by casting uncertainty on whether a CRNA may continue to own and operate a professional practice or related entity in Rhode Island.

In particular, because CRNAs are not physicians, the absence of a clear carveout could be read to exclude or impair CRNA-owned practices, even though CRNAs are highly trained licensed professionals who lawfully provide anesthesia services under Rhode Island law. We do not believe that outcome is intended, but the present language could produce that result or, at a minimum, create significant uncertainty for existing and future CRNA-owned entities.

Accordingly, RIANA respectfully requests that H7721 be amended with the following:

"Nothing in the act shall be construed to prohibit the ownership, control, or operation of a professional practice or professional entity by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist lawfully licensed in Rhode Island."

A narrow clarifying amendment of that kind would preserve the bill's core objective while avoiding harm to CRNAs who are practicing independently and lawfully. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Turini
President
Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists