



House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative Susan R. Donovan, Chair
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov
April 14th, 2026

RE: Testimony OPPOSING of House bill 7740

Dear Chair Donovan:

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island (NPARI), I write to express our opposition to House Bill H 7740, introduced by the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists (RIANA) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). As currently written, this legislation would impose unnecessary and potentially harmful restrictions on nurse practitioner (NP) scope of practice with disastrous effects on patient safety and access to care.

While we understand that the intent of the bill may be to address concerns regarding potential future encroachment on anesthesia providers' roles, particularly in the context of sedation for elective outpatient procedures, the proposed bill instead would create unintended and detrimental consequences for patient care, access, and system efficiency.

Sedation practices, including the administration of mild to moderate sedation, require nuanced clinical judgment, appropriate training, and adherence to established safety standards. These areas are already addressed within existing regulatory and accreditation frameworks. For example, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation recognize that qualified non-anesthesia professionals, including appropriately trained nurse practitioners, may safely administer moderate sedation within their scope of practice, provided they meet competency, credentialing, and monitoring requirements. These standards are designed to ensure patient safety while supporting access to timely care. (see attached CMS guidelines, Boston Children's sedation policy)

At the state level, scope of practice and clinical standards for advanced practice registered nurses are appropriately governed through the regulatory authority of the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH). This process allows for careful, evidence-based policymaking that incorporates clinical expertise, credentialing requirements, and stakeholder input. It is the appropriate venue for addressing complex issues such as sedation practices, where patient safety, provider competency, and healthcare access must all be balanced.

During last year's legislative discussions, there appeared to be broad consensus that sedation-related policy should be addressed through the DOH's regulatory framework rather than through statute. That approach remains especially important now, as there is active, high-level collaboration underway across Rhode Island. Hospitals, professional organizations, and other key stakeholders are currently engaged in developing comprehensive regulatory guidance on this issue. A revised draft is already under review by the Governor's office and the DOH and is expected to be released for public comment. (see draft regs attachment).

Introducing H 7740 during this ongoing regulatory process undermines that collaborative work. It diverts critical attention and resources away from the thoughtful, inclusive, and evidence-driven process that is

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specifically designed to address these issues and already underway. Regulatory development, particularly when it involves patient safety and clinical standards, requires deliberate consideration and should not be preempted by legislation that may not fully account for the complexity of care delivery. This process should not be rushed or pressured.

In summary, we respectfully urge you to oppose H 7740 and allow the established regulatory process to proceed. Doing so will ensure that any policy changes related to sedation practices are grounded in clinical evidence, aligned with federal standards, and developed with appropriate stakeholder engagement to best address patient safety and access to appropriate high-quality care.

PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL.

Sincerely,

Anne Neuville, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC
President NP Alliance of RI (NPARI)
House district 19