

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

Dear Chairperson Susan Donovan and Members of the House Committee,

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 7740 entitled An Act Relating to the Business and Professions- Nurses

My name is Ashley Arnold from district 29. I'm writing in **Opposition to House Bill 7740** because of the significantly negative impact it will have on patient access to health care services and patient care outcomes. This bill seeks to restrict NP scope of practice from using general anesthetic drugs and providing moderate sedation. Both are routine interventions performed by critical care, procedural care, emergency medicine, and pediatric sedation nurse practitioners on a daily basis. Both practices have been in place for decades with an excellent safety record. Restricting these functions to emergency situations only is reckless, dangerous and will result in a major disruption to the way patients are cared for in the state of Rhode Island.

Here are a few important points to consider:

1. Nurse Practitioner and Registered Nursing scope of practice is regulated at the Department of Health, not in legislation. We are currently working with the Department of Health regarding this topic.
2. There have been 0 reported patient safety events involving a Nurse Practitioner providing sedation. Nurse Practitioners safely provide care across the healthcare continuum, providing sedation for patients not just in emergency situations, but also for procedures in critical care and other areas. Without an empowered NP workforce, there will be a substantial delay in care, resulting in serious patient safety events. For example, as it stands now, we have patients in the hospital who need to wait 2-3 days for a cardioversion, where shock the heart back into a normal rhythm. We do require a CRNA or anesthesiologist for this. They cannot meet the needs of patients now, they certainly will not be able to meet the needs of additional patients all over the hospital. If we restrict NP practice, this will have a serious, negative impact on patients in the state of Rhode Island.
3. Sedation and anesthesia exist on the same continuum. Topical, mild and moderate sedation are NOT considered anesthesia by the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid no matter which drugs are used to achieve the sedation effect. Therefore, anesthesia services are not required in these circumstances and would be discouraged.
4. Patients will be negatively impacted by the passage of this bill. Only independently contracted CRNAs will benefit from this bill by securing exclusive APRN prescribing rights of an entire class of drugs and prohibiting the NPs ability to provide care and comfort to patients when they are most in need of expert care.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please vote to oppose House Bill 7740 to safeguard patient access to safe and timely care across the state. Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions. I am happy to sit down and discuss this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

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