

Steven Sepe

From: Claire Douglass <cdouglass@rimirad.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 11:28 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Opposition to HB-7740

You don't often get email from cdouglass@rimirad.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear HHS Committee Members,

My name is Claire Douglass and I am a Physician Assistant working at Rhode Island Medical Imaging (RIMI). I am writing to you today to respectfully request you and your committee oppose HB-7740.

When I say I work for RIMI, I actually work for nearly every hospital in the state as our group is contracted to Brown University Health, Care New England, and more to provide diagnostic and interventional radiology services. A large part of the practice of myself and my colleagues is to perform procedures with moderate sedation; we use it every day.

I am deeply concerned that this bill will essentially prohibit PAs from being able to order or use sedation/sedating medications. If this bill were to pass, it would be an abomination for healthcare in Rhode Island. PAs across Rhode Island provide **vital** care to patients across the state, performing inpatient, outpatient, and emergency room procedures, that require the need for sedation. These vital procedures include biopsies to diagnose cancer, port placements for cancer patients, urgent chest tubes, drainage and aspiration of fluid collections in very sick patients, and more. In our practice, these procedures are primarily done by PAs, administering sedation along with our nursing colleagues during each procedure all day long. We are well trained to do so and our patients know that they are in good hands under our care. Our attending physician partners trust us to do this life-saving work. Our work would come to a grinding halt if either of these bills passed. The cost of implementing CRNAs to do these jobs would only contribute to rising healthcare costs in our state and cripple our already depleted system with bloat and roadblocks for our patients.

To clarify HB-7740 in plain terms:

- The draft legislation states that unless you are a CRNA or CRNA student, you “shall not administer agents that are primarily used and classified as general anesthetics for minimal, moderate, deep sedation, or general anesthesia.” PAs, working collaboratively with RNs, routinely and safely provide minimal and moderate (“conscious”) sedation in many inpatient and outpatient settings. No one disputes that general anesthesia should be provided by CRNAs or anesthesiologists. However, there is a broad subset of clinical environments where mild to moderate sedation has been safely provided for years by trained providers without complications.
- This language directly impacts procedural areas as well as directly impacting critical care areas, emergency departments, and medical and surgical ICUs across the state of RI.
- It may limit patient access and could potentially require sending patients out of state for sedation-assisted procedures such as colonoscopies, endoscopies, interventional radiology procedures, and pediatric imaging. This would not entice talent to our state which already has one of the worst physician Medicaid reimbursement rates in the country.

- This bill will increase patient length of stay for inpatient units by increasing delays in obtaining procedures that require sedation since CRNAs and anesthesiologists are not always readily available for elective procedures.
- Will increase healthcare costs by now requiring anesthesiologists or CRNAs to provide sedation and care to a patient population that has been traditionally and safely managed by MDs, DOs, PAs, and NPs.
- It restricts RNs from administering or titrating sedating medications on non-intubated patients in critical care areas, where that is exactly what these RNs are trained and credentialed to do. This is the standard in every other state I have worked.

I moved to Rhode Island 2 years ago, proud to live and work somewhere that is known to have modern PA practices and laws. I am deeply disillusioned by this bill and strongly urge you to oppose it. As the adage goes, why fix what is not broken?

Thank you for your consideration and hopefully your opposition of HB-7740.

Sincerely,

Claire Douglass, PA-C

Rhode Island Medical Imaging PA & Proud RIAPA Member

223 Summit Avenue, Providence, RI