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April 14, 2026

The Honorable Joseph McNamara
House Health & Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H 7740 – Safe Administration of Sedation

Dear Chairperson McNamara and Members of the Committee,

As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) practicing in Rhode Island, I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 7740**. This legislation is essential for codifying patient safety standards regarding the administration of potent anesthetic agents that carry a high risk of unintended deep sedation.

While some argue that these medications are intended only for "conscious" or moderate sedation, the clinical reality is that agents like **propofol, etomidate, and methohexital** are pharmacologically designed as general anesthetics. These drugs have an incredibly narrow therapeutic window; they can progress a patient from moderate sedation to deep sedation or full respiratory arrest quite quickly and unexpectedly. As CRNAs, we are specifically trained to manage the loss of protective airway reflexes that occurs during these rapid transitions.

It is important to clarify that H 7740 does not hinder the ability of other APRNs or RNs to provide safe, effective moderate sedation. Practitioners have a wide array of other medications at their disposal—such as midazolam, dexmedetomidine, and fentanyl—that are appropriate for moderate sedation without the volatile risk profile of the general anesthetics restricted by this bill.

Furthermore, H 7740 is carefully drafted to ensure that emergency care remains uninterrupted. It explicitly allows RNs and APRNs to administer these agents in critical scenarios, including:

- **Critical life-saving situations** requiring immediate airway management or rapid sequence intubation.
- **Maintaining sedation** for patients who are already tracheally intubated and mechanically ventilated in an ER or ICU setting.
- **Emergency situations** where there is an imminent threat to life or limb, such as cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

By restricting the elective use of these specific general anesthetics to CRNAs and those in accredited anesthesia training programs, Rhode Island is ensuring that the most dangerous medications are handled only by those with the highest level of rescue training. I urge the

Committee to support H 7740 to protect the safety of all Rhode Islanders undergoing medical procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Cain', written in a cursive style.

David Cain

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist