

Steven Sepe

From: Derric Vigeant <derricvigeant23@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 9:20 AM
To: Rep. Donovan, Susan R
Cc: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Opposition to HB-7740

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Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

My name is Derric Vigeant, and I am a Physician Assistant practicing inpatient psychiatry at Roger Williams Medical Center, where I also work closely with medical and emergency teams across the hospital.

I am writing to express strong concern regarding HB-7740 and to respectfully ask for your opposition to this bill.

As written, this legislation would significantly restrict the ability of Physician Assistants and Registered Nurses to participate in the administration and management of mild to moderate sedation—care that is safely and routinely provided across hospitals every day. In practice, this would create immediate barriers to timely care for patients requiring procedures such as imaging, endoscopy, and other medically necessary interventions.

From a systems perspective, the downstream impact would be substantial. Hospitals would face delays in care, prolonged inpatient stays, increased emergency department boarding, and higher overall healthcare costs. In many cases, it would require the presence of anesthesia providers for procedures that have long been safely managed by trained teams, which is simply not feasible given current workforce limitations.

From a patient care standpoint, this introduces unnecessary delays and distress. Many of the patients I work with—including elderly and cognitively impaired individuals—depend on efficient coordination of care. Delays in procedures due to sedation restrictions would directly impact their outcomes, length of stay, and overall hospital experience.

This bill does not improve safety—it reduces access and efficiency in a system that is already strained. Physician Assistants are highly trained, licensed professionals who routinely collaborate with physicians and follow established protocols to ensure safe care delivery. Removing us from this aspect of care would create gaps, not solutions.

I respectfully urge you and the committee to consider the real-world impact this legislation would have on patient access, hospital operations, and the broader healthcare system, and to oppose HB-7740.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to the health of Rhode Island's communities.

Sincerely,
Derric Vigeant, PA-C