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From: Peterson, Emily, PA <EPeterson@brownhealth.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 12:14 PM
To: repdonovan@rilegislature.gov
Cc: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Opposition to HB-7740

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Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

I am a Physician Assistant working within the Brown Health System in the Emergency Department. I am writing to you today to respectfully request you and your committee oppose HB-7740.

- 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 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.
- May 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.
- In my practice in the ER, we often use conscious sedation to perform a variety of procedures that are paramount for patient care.
- This is especially important in the pediatric emergency department where we often need sedation for young children to undergo procedures like stitches or putting on casts. These sedations make our patients and their parents more comfortable and allow us to take better care of them. If we as PAs were unable to do this it would severely limit practice causing patients to wait for longer and it would severely limit patient care.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Peterson PA-C

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