

IN SUPPORT of H7740-2026

Distinguished representatives of the House Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for your time and attention pertaining to House Bill 7740, "Safe administration of anesthetics." I recognize your hard work in considering new legislation as a volunteer steward for Rhode Islanders, and I appreciate your consideration of my written testimony.

I strongly support House Bill 7740, 2026, Regular Session. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) with a Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP). I have practiced anesthesia for 10 years-5 in a care team model and 5 in solo practice. To become a CRNA, DNAP, I completed 12 years of coursework, worked tens of thousands of hours at the bedside directly caring for acutely ill patients, completed over 700 individual anesthetics and administered over 2,000 hours of anesthesia during nurse anesthesia residency in a controlled environment to be considered "safe to enter practice".

General anesthetic medications such as Propofol, Etomidate, Methohexital, and volatile anesthetic gases, can lead to airway obstruction, respiratory depression, and cardiovascular collapse. These medications can lead to irreversible anoxic brain injury in 1 minute and can cause death in as little as 4 minutes. It is essential that an individual trained in the administration of General Anesthesia is administering these medications for therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

The Food and Drug Administration requires Propofol packaging to be labelled- "Propofol Injectable Emulsion should be administered only by persons trained in the administration of general anesthesia and not involved in the conduct of the surgical/diagnostic procedure." This label is strongly supported by the three main authorities on anesthesia safety in the United States of America.

- **American Society of Anesthesiologists**
- **American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology**
- **Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation**

The only individuals in Rhode Island that are trained in the administration of general anesthesia are MD/DO physician anesthesiologists, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. There is NO 'anesthesia specialty' for Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistants. If Propofol is being administered for a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure, it is essential that a physician anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist is administering it.

Administration of anesthesia is recognized since the 1840s to be a highly complex and technical skill. Prior to established anesthesia experts whose sole responsibility was safe anesthesia administration, death and hypoxic brain injury were common. Since 1906

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anesthesia training is highly specialized, requiring intense training and education. Risking anesthesia care for elective therapeutic or diagnostic procedures in the hands of non-anesthesia experts is irresponsible and frankly terrifying. I implore you to support and pass this legislation which demands the highest level of safe anesthesia care for all Rhode Islanders.

Dr. Gerald Murphy CRNA, DNAP

Coventry RI 02816