

Steven Sepe

From: Heidi Smith <hms1129@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2026 9:38 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 7740

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Dear Representative Donovan,

I am writing as a Rhode Island constituent and healthcare professional to express my opposition to House Bill 7740.

This bill imposes unnecessary and potentially harmful restrictions on the ability of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to administer sedation in emergency situations. These decisions are not made casually—they are grounded in extensive education, clinical training, and real-time patient assessment. Legislating rigid limitations into these moments undermines clinical judgment and risks delaying appropriate care.

At the bedside, our responsibility is to act swiftly to alleviate patient pain, suffering, and emotional trauma. Any barrier that creates hesitation or ambiguity in delivering necessary sedation directly impacts patient safety and dignity.

Rhode Island is already facing a significant shortage of healthcare providers. Adding restrictive legislation like this will further strain an already taxed system, increase healthcare costs, and create additional barriers to timely, effective care.

This bill does not improve patient safety—it compromises it. I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 7740 and instead support policies that trust qualified clinicians to provide appropriate, patient-centered care.

Sincerely,
Heidi Smith AGPCNP-C
Cranston, Rhode Island