

Dear Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Jasmina Klasic, and I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) practicing here in Rhode Island. I am writing to respectfully urge your support for House Bill 7740, which strengthens patient safety by ensuring that anesthesia is delivered by trained and certified anesthesia professionals, including Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and physician anesthesiologists. By clearly defining roles and responsibilities, this bill reinforces patient protections and upholds the highest standards of safety for individuals undergoing procedures involving anesthesia.

As a practicing CRNA, I am responsible for administering anesthesia and monitoring patients during some of the most vulnerable moments in their lives. I have experienced firsthand how quickly a stable situation can change with the use of anesthetic medications. These medications can rapidly affect a patient's airway, breathing, and cardiovascular stability, and safe management requires advanced training in anesthesia, constant vigilance, and the ability to respond immediately to life-threatening complications.

H7740 reinforces an important principle that I see every day in clinical practice: anesthesia is a highly specialized area of healthcare that demands focused education and expertise. Certified anesthesia professionals undergo extensive training specifically dedicated to understanding these risks and managing them safely. By clearly defining who is qualified to administer anesthetic medications, this bill strengthens patient protections and supports consistent, high-quality, and safe access to care.

Rhode Island patients deserve the assurance that when they undergo anesthesia, they are cared for by professionals whose training is specifically aligned with the complexity and risk of these medications. While other advanced practice clinicians play vital and valued roles in our healthcare system, anesthesia requires a distinct and specialized skill set focused on perioperative safety and crisis management.

Every patient I care for is someone's family member, and they place tremendous trust in the person managing their anesthesia. Establishing clear standards for anesthesia medication administration helps ensure that this trust is consistently met, reduces risk, and strengthens confidence in our healthcare system.

I respectfully ask that you support H7740 and help ensure that anesthesia care/administration in Rhode Island remains safe, consistent, and delivered by appropriately qualified anesthesia professionals.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,  
Jasmina Klasic, CRNA  
klasic@outlook.com