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From: Salhab, Josephine G, PA <jsalhab@brownhealth.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 11:53 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Donovan, Susan R
Subject: Opposition to HB-7740

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Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

I am a Physician Assistant working at the Miriam Hospital. 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.

From my own clinical experience as a surgical Physician Assistant caring for patient on inpatient surgical floors and in the Surgical Care Unit, this legislation could directly affect my ability to care for patients in a timely and effective manner. Many surgical patients require procedures or interventions that involve mild or moderate sedation for diagnostic imaging, bedside procedures, or urgent interventions. If HB-7740 were enacted as written, it could delay these necessary procedures while waiting for anesthesia providers who may not always be immediately available.

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

Sincerely,

Josephine G. Salhab, PA-C

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