

April 14, 2026

Dear Madam Chair Donovan and all Committee Members:

I support House Bill 7740 and ask that you consider my testimony.

I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and have been since 2013. I have worked in RI since then, including the Brown Health medical system for 10 years. There is a current proposal for patients undergoing elective invasive GI endoscopic procedures at Rhode Island Hospital to receive IV propofol sedation by providers who are not traditionally trained in anesthesia delivery.

My graduate CRNA training which I completed in 2013 consisted of a 32 month, 54 credit, full time didactic and clinical program. The final 24 months of which were specific to training in general anesthesia with 60+ hours a week at clinical practice along with anesthesia specific courses (none of which my NP colleagues were enrolled in). I have spent tens of thousands of hours caring for patients along the whole spectrum of anesthesia in a busy trauma center and subsequently a busy community hospital that has allowed me to deliver safe deep sedation to members of the RI community in need of elective GI endoscopic procedures. My most harrowing moments have been when caring for healthy patients presenting for elective surgical cases and procedures, especially those who do not have a secured airway (elective GI procedures).

It is quite difficult to maintain conscious or moderate sedation with IV propofol sedation. Conscious/moderate sedation frequently causes a patient to experience disinhibition and aggression, necessitating deeper sedation to allow the proceduralist to be continue safely. After conscious/moderate sedation, patients enter an excitatory phase of anesthesia with discoordinated breathing and erratic muscle movement. It's very difficult to know without proper hands-on training and professional practice as a CRNA (or anesthesiologist) whether your patient has entered this excitatory phase or most critically is experiencing respiratory distress leading to respiratory arrest. As someone who not only works but also lives in our community, I ask you to please support House Bill 7740.

Thank you for your time,

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