

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and all Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Turini, and I have the honor of serving as President of the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists. But more importantly, I am a practicing anesthesia provider of 18 years who has stood at the head of the bed, responsible for a patient's life during their most vulnerable moments.

House Bill 7740 is a critical patient safety measure. It appropriately clarifies that the administration of anesthetic medications be limited to highly trained anesthesia professionals, except in emergency situations.

I am in strong support of House Bill 7740 because I have seen firsthand just how quickly a "routine" procedure can turn into a life-threatening emergency.

When a patient receives medications classified as anesthetics, they are placing complete trust in the person administering them. In a matter of seconds, their ability to breathe can be compromised, their blood pressure can collapse, and/or their airway can close. When this happens, there is no time to hesitate, there is only time to act. I have personally cared for patients whose conditions changed without warning. What began as a stable, straightforward case became a fight to maintain an airway, to support breathing, to stabilize a crashing heart rate. In those moments, it is not just about giving medication, or calling for another provider to try to save the patient's life, it is about having the depth of training, education and experience to recognize subtle warning signs before they become catastrophic, and the skill to intervene immediately. That level of readiness does not happen by chance. CRNAs dedicate years of their lives preparing for these exact moments. We begin as critical care nurses, caring for the sickest patients in hospitals, managing ventilators, titrating life-saving medications, and responding to emergencies. We then complete rigorous doctoral-level anesthesia programs, accumulating thousands of hours administering anesthesia across every type of patient, from fragile newborns to the elderly, from healthy individuals to those with complex medical conditions. We are trained not just for when things go right, but for when they go wrong.

And that is why House Bill 7740 matters so deeply. Allowing individuals without this specialized education, training and expertise to administer anesthesia, puts patients at unnecessary risk. Administration of anesthetic medications are not a simple, predictable process, they operate on a spectrum, and patients can slip from moderate sedation into deep sedation or general anesthesia without warning. If the provider at the bedside is not prepared to manage that transition, the consequences can be devastating. House Bill 7740 is about protecting those patients. It ensures that the person responsible for administering anesthesia is also fully equipped to handle its most dangerous complications. This Bill protects patients from preventable harm, ensures consistency in standards of care, aligns practice with the complexity and risks of anesthesia and preserves exceptions for emergency situations.

As healthcare providers, we all share the same goal, to do no harm. 100% patient safety: every patient, every time This legislation helps ensure that we live up to that promise and the standard of care for all Rhode Island residents. When anesthesia medications are administered, Rhode Islanders should expect that it is done safely, by providers with the education, training, and expertise to manage the full scope of what can occur. Rhode Island patients deserve the same standard of care as the patients in Massachusetts, Connecticut or any other state in the United States- which is a trained, educated, and certified anesthesia provider.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and on behalf of the patients who trust us with their lives, I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 7740.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Much Respect,  
Laura E. Turini APRN, CRNA, MSNA  
President, RI Association of Nurse Anesthetists