

May 14, 2026

Re: Opposition to 7740

Dear Members of the RI House Committee on Health and Human Services,

Rhode Island's Chapter of The American College of Emergency Physicians strongly opposes house bill 7740. Across the state, nurses (RNs) routinely administer anesthetic medications safely and under the supervision of a physician who is performing a procedure. This legislation would make it impossible for nurses to administer the anesthesia while a physician performs a procedure.

As emergency medicine physicians we rely on nurses who are trained in sedation to administer the medications we order. While we use this practice for emergency procedures, we often use this practice for painful procedure that are not life threatening.

This legislation would make sedation less safe. What would happen is that physicians would have to administer the sedation medications AND do the procedure at the same time.

Every single oral surgeon, gastroenterologist and countless other doctors rely on nurses to give the sedating medications while they do the procedure. If this legislation moves forward, colonoscopies and endoscopies would become more dangerous and more costly. Getting a wisdom tooth pulled would be cost-prohibitive. Nursing-administered procedural sedation is done safely every day and has been the safe practice for generations.

This bill is trying to change something that is exceedingly safe already and would make procedures more dangerous. There is not a problem here that needs legislating.

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President, RI ACEP

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