

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the anesthesia community in the State of Maine to offer testimony regarding the administration of anesthesia and the practitioners authorized to perform it within our state.

In Maine, the administration of anesthesia is exclusively provided by qualified anesthesia professionals, specifically, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and physician anesthesiologists. These are individuals who have undergone extensive, specialized training specifically in the field of anesthesia. This standard ensures the highest level of patient safety and quality of care across all care settings in our state.

It is not the practice in Maine to permit nurse practitioners or other advanced practice providers without dedicated anesthesia training and certification to administer anesthesia. Maine's standards reflect a longstanding commitment to ensuring that only those with the appropriate anesthesia specific education, clinical training, and credentials are entrusted with this critical patient safety responsibility.

I respectfully offer this testimony in support of maintaining rigorous, anesthesia specific standards for the administration of anesthesia, and I commend the Rhode Island legislature for carefully examining this important patient safety issue.

Sincerely,

Maureen Furlong, MSNA, CRNA, APRN  
President, Maine Association of Nurse Anesthesiology