

From: [Ashley Wright](#)
To: [S Legislation](#)
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to s-3184
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Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing again regarding Senate Bill S 3184, which has now been introduced for the third consecutive year. In prior discussions, healthcare professionals across the state have explained how detrimental this legislation would be to healthcare access in Rhode Island.

This represents an ongoing legislative effort to restrict how and when registered nurses and nurse practitioners may administer procedural moderate sedation. If enacted, this would significantly reduce access to care and disrupt established hospital practices across the state.

The Sub A added earlier today does not change the basis of the prior dispute regarding this bill. It simply underscores that this is a specialized measure advanced by a *limited party* seeking to capitalize on elective procedures statewide—despite lacking the capacity to adequately staff or support such services across the entire state.

This comes down to basic math: there are roughly 200 CRNAs serving a population of about 1.1 million people in our state. If this bill moves forward, who exactly will be filling the gaps providing moderate sedation to these patients, as has been done safely for decades under our current regulated practice?

We have previously presented statistical data and clinical evidence demonstrating that there is no evidence-based need to alter how moderate sedation is currently practiced in Rhode Island—a healthcare system that is already under considerable strain. Importantly, there have been no reported safety concerns related to nurse practitioners administering moderate sedation in our state. ***It is also important to clarify that deep sedation and general anesthesia are, and will continue to be, reserved for anesthesia specialists as it always has been.***

Numerous professional organizations have voiced their opposition to this bill and support the position that this legislation is not the appropriate path forward.

The ripple effects of this bill would be significant and could negatively impact healthcare delivery across Rhode Island for years to come. If this legislation were truly focused on improving patient safety, nurse practitioners would be among the first to support it. Unfortunately, many of us believe the motivation behind this bill is driven more by financial interests of certain organizations than by a genuine effort to improve patient care. Many of those advocating for these restrictions do not work within the

clinical environments that would be most affected by these changes.

Instead, healthcare professionals across the state have asked the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) and the Board of Nursing (BON) to develop appropriate regulatory guidance that works for all healthcare providers. *The DOH has recently released a draft of these proposed guidelines.*

Currently, numerous organizations across Rhode Island, including hospitals, anesthesia groups, executive leadership teams, and supporting organizations such as the Hospital Association of Rhode Island are reviewing these proposed regulations. These guidelines will soon move into the public comment phase, allowing healthcare professionals and stakeholders to provide input before they are finalized.

While the response from the DOH took time, they clearly recognized the importance and potential impact of this issue and have taken meaningful steps to address it. I respectfully ask that the legislature allow our regulatory bodies to complete this process and continue regulating healthcare practice in a way that reflects the expertise of those who work within the healthcare system every day.

Please contact me with any questions on this matter, I would love the opportunity to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

Ashley Lace, APRN, CNP, MBA

Neurological Critical Care