

Denise Brennan, DNP, RN, CNL
1 Brier Court
Warwick, RI 02886
Denisebrennan49@gmail.com

April 30, 2026

Valerie Lawson
Rhode Island State Senate

Re: S 3184 Safe Administration of Anesthesia

Dear Senator Lawson,

I am writing to you as a constituent of the State of Rhode Island, a registered nurse and doctoral prepared nurse leader with more than 30 years of experience providing care in this state. I am deeply concerned about Bill S 3184 and respectfully urge you to oppose this legislation, as it would unnecessarily restrict the scope of practice for registered nurses and non-CRNA advanced practice registered nurses related to the administration of medications classified as anesthetics for procedural sedation.

Throughout my career, I have practiced alongside highly skilled and well-trained nurses who have safely administered medications— including those classified as anesthetics— during procedures such as wound closures, fracture reductions, abscess drainage, and other diagnostic and therapeutic interventions. This has been standard, evidence-based practice in emergency departments and procedural settings for decades. Nurses play a critical role in patient safety through continuous bedside presence, ongoing assessment, vigilant monitoring, and rapid response to changes in patient condition. Nurses utilize evidenced based practices, focused on competency, and align with national practice guidelines put forth by agencies like ASA, CMS and TJC. We need to move away from provider specific recommendations and the idea that certain drugs can only be used in emergency situations.

Restricting nursing scope of practice in this area will have real and unintended consequences. It will limit timely access to necessary care, particularly in high-acuity and fast-paced settings, and it will prevent experienced nurses and advanced practice registered nurses from practicing to the full extent of their education, training, and competency. Additionally, this legislation would place increased and unnecessary

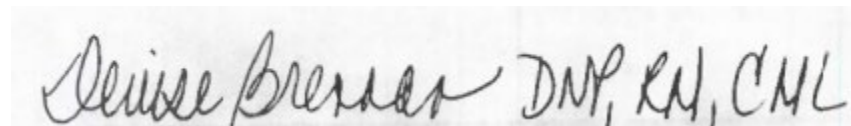
burden on physician colleagues by shifting responsibilities that have long been safely and effectively managed by nurses.

Most importantly, this bill risks negatively impacting patient care. Delays in procedures, reduced flexibility in care delivery, and decreased efficiency within emergency and procedural settings are outcomes that patients in Rhode Island cannot afford—especially as our healthcare system continues to face workforce shortages and increasing demand for emergency services.

My opposition to S 34184 is rooted in patient advocacy, public safety, and decades of firsthand experience within Rhode Island's healthcare system. I respectfully ask that you consider the practical implications of this legislation and vote in opposition to S 3184, placing decision making about nursing practice with our Board of Nursing.

Thank you for your time, thoughtful consideration, and continued service to the residents of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Denise Brennan" in a cursive script, followed by the credentials "DNP, RN, CNL" in a more formal, blocky font.

Denise Brennan, DNP, RN, CNL
Warwick, Rhode Island