

April 12, 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
Rhode Island General Assembly

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the HHS Committee,

RE: Oppose House Bill 7740

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding **H 7740**. I respectfully urge the committee to **OPPOSE** this legislation.

Although presented as a safety measure, H 7740 would significantly disrupt care delivery across emergency departments, critical care units, procedural areas, and mental health settings. Registered nurses and non-CRNA APRNs have long provided safe, evidence-based support for sedation and medication management under established protocols. Removing them from these roles would create delays, reduce access, and strain an already challenged healthcare system.

This concern is shared broadly. Numerous professional organizations across Rhode Island including those representing emergency medicine, critical care, nursing, hospital leadership, and advanced practice providers **have consistently opposed this bill because of its far-reaching negative impact on patient care.**

It is also important to note that the Rhode Island Department of Health is actively developing regulatory guidance to ensure sedation standards are universal, competency-based, and aligned with best practices not tied to a specific provider type. This is the appropriate pathway for improving consistency and safety without creating unnecessary barriers to care.

Given the potential for increased wait times, reduced access to essential services, and further strain on both medical and mental health systems, I respectfully ask the committee to **REJECT H 7740.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leanne Burke
Providence, RI
District 4