

Dear Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Senate,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 3184.

As a certified registered nurse anesthetist, I have seen firsthand how quickly a patient's condition can change when anesthesia is involved. What may appear to be a routine elective procedure can become critical within moments, and when that happens, there is no margin for hesitation or inexperience.

Anesthesia is not routine care—it involves powerful medications that can rapidly affect a patient's airway, cardiovascular stability, and overall survival.

For this reason, I firmly believe that the administration of anesthesia medications for elective procedures requiring deep sedation—and anything beyond that level—should be limited to professionals who have completed formal, specialized education, rigorous clinical training, and board certification in anesthesia care. Physician anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists dedicate years to mastering pharmacology, physiology, airway management, and emergency response. In my experience, these levels of sedation can quickly progress to loss of airway control or sudden hemodynamic instability, and managing those situations safely requires true anesthesia expertise.

Expanding anesthesia administration to individuals who claim clinical competency *without* formal, dedicated education, training, and board certification in anesthesia introduces unnecessary risk and serious patient safety concerns. While many healthcare professionals provide excellent care within their respective practices, general training alone does not prepare a provider to manage the full complexity and potential dangers of anesthesia.

Senate Bill 3184 represents an important step toward protecting patients in Rhode Island. Based on my firsthand experience, maintaining clear standards for who is qualified to administer deep sedation—and anything beyond that level of anesthesia for elective procedures—is not just a policy decision; it is a patient safety necessity.

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 3184 and prioritize the safety and well-being of all Rhode Islanders. By reinforcing national standards for specialized training and certification for providers administering deep sedation and higher levels of anesthesia for elective procedures, this legislation helps ensure that patients receive the safest possible care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jasmina Klasic, CRNA
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