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The Honorable Melissa A. Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Rhode Island General Assembly

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Senate HHS Committee,

RE: Oppose Senate Bill 3184

I am a board-certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner licensed and practicing in Rhode Island at PVD Ketamine & Wellness. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns regarding Senate Bill 3184. I respectfully urge this committee to OPPOSE SB 3184.

As a psychiatric nurse practitioner, I work with Rhode Islanders suffering from treatment-resistant depression and other debilitating mental health conditions. We are in a national mental health crisis, with limited access to providers and effective treatment options.

SB 3184 would prohibit RNs and non-CRNA APRNs from administering agents "primarily used and classified as general anesthetics for minimal, moderate, deep sedation, or general Anesthesia." While ketamine is classified as an anesthetic, it is widely used in sub anesthetic doses for mental health treatment across the nation.

Ketamine-Assisted Psychotherapy (KAP) has been shown to provide meaningful relief to 70% or more of patients with treatment-resistant depression compared to at most, 33% remission with standard antidepressant treatment. Additionally, ketamine often provides more rapid relief than conventional treatment that at minimum relieves suffering and for many saves lives.

Psychiatric illness is complex and treatment is nuanced. The majority of Rhode Islanders access this treatment from expertly trained nurse practitioners and psychotherapists. SB 3184 would dramatically decrease one of the few evidence-based treatments available to our most vulnerable patients, delivered by the very providers trained to offer it safely and effectively.

I respectfully urge the committee to REJECT SB 3184 and protect Rhode Islanders' access to care that can and will save lives if available.

Nicole Solk, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Board Certified Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner