



Empowering PAs through Advocacy and Education
RHODE ISLAND ACADEMY of PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair,
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI, 02903

Submitted electronically to SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

RE: S-3184

Position: **OPPOSED**

Thank you Chair Murray and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on S-3184

As the professional association representing over 800 Rhode Island licensed physician assistants (PAs), the Rhode Island Academy of PAs (RIAPA) is concerned with bill H-7740.

The following list highlights our areas of concern:

If enacted this legislation would prohibit PAs from performing moderate sedation. There is no justifiable reason for this. PAs have been ordering and administering moderate sedation for over 30 years with no incidents of patient harm

- Directly impacts procedural areas as well as directly impacting Critical Care Areas, ERs, Medical and Surgical ICUs.
- May limit access for patients and could potentially lead to having send patients out of state for sedation assisted procedures such as colonoscopies, endoscopies, and pediatric imaging.
- will increase length of stay for inpatient units by increasing delays in obtaining procedures that require sedation
- May increase healthcare costs by now requiring anesthesiologists or CRNAs to provide sedation and care to a patient population that has been traditionally and safely managed by MDs, DOs, PAs, and NPs.
- Restricts RNs from administering or titrating sedating medications on non-intubated patients in critical care areas, where that is exactly what these RNs are trained and credentialed to do.

- We are concerned when the practice of medicine such as the choice of medications used and how medications are delivered becomes part of the legislative process rather than a regulatory process.
- Medicine is constantly evolving and to legislate restrictions in this particular area would likely result in an annual review and possibly need for ongoing updates and revisions which would be easier through a regulatory process.
- This bill seems to try and address issues that are better served and solved by the regulatory process and not through legislation. It is our understanding that the Department of Health is working on a regulatory update to address any patient safety concerns.

In summary, the RIAPA believes that S-3184

in its present form does not serve patients or providers and create restrictions that limit access and create an additional burden on the healthcare system and healthcare workforce. We would be happy to work with the bill sponsors with our concerns.

Respectfully,

Jim Carney.

Director of Advocacy and Government Relations