

House Committee Health and Human Services
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence RI 02903

May 14, 2024

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 8237 entitled an act relating to the business and professions- nurse anesthetists

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the HHS (Health and Human Services) Committee

I am Andrea Hale, an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner from East Greenwich, Rhode Island. I work for Lifespan at Rhode Island Hospital in the Cardiothoracic ICU within the Department of Cardiac Surgery.

I oppose House Bill No. 8237, entitled AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – NURSE ANESTHETISTS.

I have been a practicing acute care nurse practitioner (NP) in a critical care setting since 2017. I have worked on the pulmonary critical care service in New Orleans, LA for three years prior to relocating to RI and joining the cardiac surgical service at RIH in late 2020. Propofol has been an integral part of my everyday practice for the last 7 years.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill to eliminate utilization of Propofol and “like” medications by nurse practitioners. As a nurse practitioner in a service that requires me to function at the top scope of my practice daily, such a limitation undermines my ability to provide best patient care. I work alongside physician assistants and carry the same weight and responsibility as they do. Keys to understanding the safe and correct use of propofol are not limited to those who function solely in anesthesia settings.

Both CRNAs and NPs with appropriate education and training possess the skillset to utilize propofol beneath the umbrella of attending physicians. I find it irresponsible to attempt to remove an essential component of my practice because of a reported conflict between CRNA vs NP roles in outpatient settings.

In such conflicts where role responsibilities are at question, often the solution is never the simplest. In the case of outpatient conscious sedation, it seems the obvious solution to protect CRNAs is to remove the ability for all NPs to function in a role that has until recently been primarily held by CRNAs. This is not the solution to a conflict that nurse practitioners have been unjustly implicated in. Such actions will result in substantial detriments to inpatient practice of

highly skill practitioners like me and lead to negative outcomes in patient care. I appreciate your time in reading this letter. I would love to be a part of further discussions if it means exploring real solutions which will protect the roles of ALL advanced practicing nurses (NPs, CRNAs, CNSs, etc.). We all started as RNs, and we all remain RNs for the life of our careers.

I urge you to vote **against** House Bill No. 8237

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against House Bill No. 8237. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hale

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