

May 13, 2024

Dear House Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I am writing to you to ask for your support on Bill H8237, which affirms that only those with anesthesia training are qualified to safely administer the anesthetic drug propofol. As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist working at Lifespan, with over 25 years of experience, I can tell you without question that this is a patient safety issue that should not be underestimated. All patients deserve to have their anesthesia provided by practitioners who are *extensively* and *specifically* trained in the practice of anesthesia. Anything less should be considered negligent and reckless care, with likely dangerous consequences.

I personally provide anesthesia services for approximately 30 GI procedures a week, as well as surgical cases in the OR. Just last week, after the conclusion of an upper endoscopy, my 63 year old female patient experienced a laryngospasm, which caused her oxygenation saturation to drop precipitously, therefore requiring immediate intervention. It is frightening to think what would've happened if this potentially life-threatening situation had not been recognized and treated immediately. Every second counts in moments like this, and CRNAs are trained to independently manage any airway emergency.

Levels of anesthesia exist along a continuum, and there is no perfect "recipe" for how much or how little one patient may need compared to another. In other words, the amount of propofol given to one patient safely may be enough to make another patient stop breathing. Which is why anyone administering propofol (as it is also stated in the drug packaging) should be adequately licensed and trained to provide advanced airway management and general anesthesia.

This issue is not about job security, there is abundant work available for CRNAs. Nor is it an attack on our NP colleagues, who do fabulous work in a variety of medical settings. This is about an attempt to introduce a practice in RI that is not done anywhere else in the country, nor is it supported by any professional anesthesia organization. And the reason for this is simply because it is NOT SAFE.

Please ask yourself, if you were given the choice of who should be providing your own anesthesia, who would you choose?

Thank you for your time and consideration on this most important decision.

Warm regards,
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