

Representative June Speakman

RI State House

82 Smith Street

Providence RI 02903

Dear Representative Speakman,

I wrote to you a few days ago concerned for patients who will receive care at Rhode Island Hospital's Gastrointestinal suite. Please support House Bill 8237.

The FDA, the American Society of Anesthesiologist and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists state that when Propofol is used for sedation/anesthesia it should be administered by an individual trained in general anesthesia. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNA who lives in your district, Bristol RI. I have been a practicing CRNA for over 30 years. Currently entry into my profession requires a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Anesthesia. The programs are 3 years in length with a front load of didactic coursework. Once the "on the job" training begins it is impossible to be employed in the field of nursing as the clinical and call commitment is very demanding. A Registered Nurse RN has several options to become an Advanced Practice Nurse. We need CRNA's, throughout the country. If an RN would like to administer general anesthetics, they should apply and complete the rigorous training that I did, and that current Nurse Anesthesia Students are working diligently to achieve.

Yesterday, while administering Propofol for an Esophagogastroduodenoscopy EGD, even after all safety procedures were in place, my patient precipitously dropped his oxygen saturation. I immediately recognized and directed the staff in the room to help me correct the patient's oxygenation without a bad outcome.

Nurse Practitioners administering Propofol independently in the GI suite for elective procedures without training in General Anesthesia is unsafe for patients. I would not want my family or friends at risk during a procedure that is supposed to screen for Cancer.

I know you are on the House Health and Welfare Committee. Please support House Bill 8237 for the safety of our patients in RI. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Donna White CRNA

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